

The Old Prairie House

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The Prairie House (now the Terre Haute House) was built in 1838 by Chauncey Rose on the corner of his farm on the outskirts of town. It was opened by Theron Barnum, of Baltimore, who conducted it about three years, but though it was a fine hotel, it was unprofitable, and in 1841 was closed. The carpets were rolled up and packed into ironbound boxes, and the linen and plate, etc., stored in rooms.

The Prairie House was finally opened in 1849 by T. G. Buntin, and began its remarkable history as a hostelry where many famous men have been entertained. At that time it was a four-story building with a flat, straight front at which boarded the best people of the town. D. S. Danaldson and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Demas Deming lived there as brides and grooms. The dining room was on the Seventh street side and across the court were the rooms occupied by J. Richard Beste, the English gentleman who included in his unique book a most interesting account of Terre Haute.



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No Call Bells.

For a long time, since Mr. Rose did not believe in them, there were no bells in the Prairie House, but later during the construction of the railroad and canal, this Englishman who had property interests here, registered at the hotel. Very fussy and hard to please, though lodged in the best rooms, he swore like a trooper when he failed to find any call bells. The next day Mr. Rose had call bells installed in all the rooms.

No better account of the "table d'hote" at the Prairie House in 1851 can be given than that by Mr. Beste, who with his wife and eleven children enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Buntin. It was a Sunday in June, and Mr. Beste had just arrived. He said:

"At one o'clock the hateful gong sounded and we all went to dinner. The eating room was of handsome dimensions. The tables were laid out with great neatness and propriety and from 50 to 100 guests were seated at them. They were of a class far superior to what I expected to find here, and some few of them were evidently gentry by birth and education. Mr. Buntin, our fat landlord (more truthful than polite, for Mr. B. at one time weighed over 300 pounds!) dressed in the height of fashion, and with carving knife and fork in hand, politely guided us to our places, and then took his own stand at the side table which groaned under the profusion of well-cooked joints."

Aided By Teeners.

Usually there was one respectable looking waiter, augmented by ten or twelve boys aged from twelve to fifteen, dressed in white jackets but without shoes or stockings. Running and tumbling around in their eagerness to serve, they looked more like school boys playing leap frog than hotel waiters. When the guests were seated the waiter boys sprang to their side, shouting in their ears, "What will you take—mutton, beef, roast lamb, veal pie, chicken pie, roast fowl or pigeons?"

Ranged up and down the long tables and cut in slices were huge piles of hot and cold bread including corn bread, seed cakes, and pancakes; milk and butter buried in large lumps of ice; molasses, preserves, and blackberry syrup in large soup tureens. Tea, coffee, chocolate, hot, cold, and iced milk were the beverages served with either white or brown sugar. Beans, hominy, potatoes, squash, and Indian corn on the ear headed the vegetable list. For dessert there were custard, cherry, squash, apple, and blackberry pies as well as stewed pears, roast apples, ice cream, and watermelons.

One Chambermaid.

One chambermaid made all the beds in the house and did all the other room service—she, too, went about shoeless and without socks.

Evidently the souvenir hunters started back over a hundred years ago to appropriate hotel properties, for a daily inventory was taken to recover stolen goods. Each night a soiled waiter boy stuck his head in room doors and shouted "Got any spoons?" If the number in the kitchen was still short, he often returned and insisted that the guests must have one or two, and to look again. About as much privacy as a gold fish, it seems, was enjoyed in those days.

To continue with Mr. Beste's account—"We elected our rooms and had a sitting room to ourselves, which looked upon a space of ground as yet unbuilt on, between the inn and the city of Terre Haute, and which therefore was an airy, open grassy common. (Imagine, if you can, nothing but an open field between 6th and 7th streets, with no buildings of any kind along Wabash avenue!)"

Five Dollars a Week.

"I paid my bill at the Prairie House. Five dollars a week was charged for each grown person for board and lodging and attendance. The charge for the servant was half that, and 10 shillings, or \$2.50 was charged for a horse . . . thus, then, for about 20 shillings per week, a man may be lodged and fed on the fat of the land in America."

Mr. Beste's description of Terre Haute in the summer of 1854 begins with the Prairie House, "situated at the entrance of the town, on one side of the National Road, and separated from the town by a common." Nearby were the homes of Dr. Read and of some of the wealthier families. "From the hotel to the town was a very disagreeable, hot walk in the sun, for it was not bordered by trees. At the end of it began the High Street of the town, which was lined on each side with stores. Then there was a square on the left hand side, where trees shaded the pavement all around from the boiling sun. On one side of this square was the other hotel of the town, "Brown's House." It was considered to be more noisy and crowded than the Prairie House."

Buntin Died In 1892.

T. C. Buntin died in Terre Haute, Jan. 11, 1892. He was born in Knox County in 1815, son of Capt. Robert Buntin who was born in the north of Ireland, his mother was a sister of Lord Baltimore. Robert Buntin settled in Vincennes in 1793 and was a noted citizen.

After much roving, T. C. Buntin came to Terre Haute as a clerk for D. D. Early in 1847 and then reopened the Prairie House. He went to the Buntin House in 1852, and was there until 1862 when he went to war, and became quartermaster of the 14th Regiment and later Brigade Quartermaster on General Kimball's staff. From 1868 to 1871 he was proprietor of the Terre Haute House and in his later years from 1878 to 1892 was identified with banking affairs of this city being president of the Savings Bank.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Scott Letter Tells About Terre Haute's First Tavern

TERRE HAUTE TRIB.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Over a century ago Lucius H. Scott wrote a letter to the Editor of the EXPRESS: "In your paper of the 26th January, 1870, I notice the following item:

"Henry Redford didn't erect the first tavern in Terre Haute, so an old residenter informs the JOURNAL." To which you pertinently ask, "Who did?"

"It may not be thought a matter of much real importance as to who did, or did not, erect the first tavern in Terre Haute, but as Terre Haute and its early history are so intimately associated with my own that I can never hear either alluded to without the liveliest interest — and then, as time rolls on, and the little village of some half dozen log cabins of fifty-three years since has developed into the proportions of a large commercial and manufacturing city — nothing connected with its origin can fail to interest its inhabitants, especially those few, like myself, who have known it for half a century.

"I know not who the "old residenter" may be who furnished the JOURNAL's information on the subject; but he cannot speak from his own personal experience. With your permission, I will state a few incidents connected with my own advent to Terre Haute, having, as you will observe, some connection with the question.

"On the 6th day of June, 1817, in company with John W. Osborn, the father-in-law of Judge Gookins, I arrived at Vincennes, after a journey of nearly two months, from St. Lawrence county, New York. Osborn, being a printer, readily obtained employment in Elihu Stout's printing office in Vincennes; but, after spending three weeks vainly seeking for something to do, I determined to seek my fortune higher up the Wabash Valley, and set out on foot for the newly laid out town of Terre Haute.

"In Vincennes I met and formed a slight acquaintance with John Britton, who had been at Terre Haute and was making his temporary home at the house of David Barnes — small log cabin situated on section 16, on the edge of the prairie, not far from the present cemetery. Having to walk the whole distance from Vincennes and carry my bundle, I made slow progress, and was nearly three days upon the journey.



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I found my new friend Britton as I expected, and was kindly and hospitably received by him and the family, but as the cabin was small and I found the family were not in a condition to receive and additional boarded. I determined to make my stay as brief as possible. I had introductory letters from Vincennes to Major Chunn and his officers at Fort Harrison, and to Major Markle at Otter Creek, which, I determined to lose no time in delivering. The second day after my arrival I visited the Fort and found the officers in their quarters. Nothing could exceed the kindness and hospitality with which they received me. The Major insisted upon my making my home at the Fort until I found some kind of employment. Situated as I was, I most gratefully accepted his hospitality, and removed my scanty baggage to the Fort.

"In a day or two I set out in the early summer morning, to cross the prairie to deliver my letters to Major Markle. I missed the track and went to Otter Creek bridge. I was conscious of

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my error, but the beauty of the morning led me on until I found myself standing on an eminence in the midst of Otter Creek Prairie.

"On casting my eye over the broad expanse, not a tree, or a house, or a fence, or ploughed field, or other indication of home or civilization, presented themselves to view, but all was one boundless, magnificent bed of beautifully variegated flowers.

"I stood and gazed until my reason failed; and when about to retrace my steps, my eye caught the glimpse of a slight column of smoke, winding up among the trees in a distant corner of the prairie. I made my way to it and found a family in a small log cabin, which they had as yet, occupied too short a time to have made any improvements around them. I then obtained directions which enabled me, without further difficulty, to find the Otter Creek mills. The Major was at home, and received me with that frank, graceful cordial hospitality, for which he was so widely celebrated. Your older citizens — a few of them — may have known him — Mr. Rose and Mr. Gilbert certainly did, and to them I need not describe him — but as I saw him at that first interview, I thought him the most magnificent specimen of manhood I had ever seen. Like Saul among the children of Israel, he stood 'a head and shoulders above them all.' I, of course, dined with him, and that brief visit was the commencement of a warm friendship that continued during the remainder of his life.

"But the inquiry may fairly be made, what has all this to do with the question as to the 'builder of the first tavern in Terre Haute.' It has this to do with it. Had there been a tavern in Terre Haute on my arrival there in June, 1817, I very naturally have availed myself of it on my first arrival, rather than accept — under the circumstances — the hospitality of my friend Britton, and the family of David Barnes.

"The truth is — and there is no incident connected with my first visit to Terre Haute — more distinctly remembered, than that on my arrival, the latter part of June, 1817, there was neither tavern or boarding houses there. Henry Redford had just erected the building, partly of hewed logs and partly frame, on the corner of Wabash and either Front or Water street, the name not distinctly remembered; the same afterwards kept by Robert Harrison, and still later by our old friend, Captain James Wasson, under the somewhat singular cognomen of 'Eagle and Lion' which was illustrated upon his sign by a patriotic picture representing the American Eagle perched upon the back of the British Lion, evidently placing in jeopardy the Royal animal's eye! But I will venture the assertion that however grotesque the sign, or however difficult at that early period to obtain supplies, that there has been no public house in Terre Haute from that to the present day, where a weary traveller could be placed more at his ease, where he could obtain a better dinner or supper, a better bed or breakfast, or where he would receive more gentle kindness from the landlady, or more generous, warm-hearted hospitality from the landlord, than at the Eagle and Lion, under the administration of Captain James and Mrs. Wasson.

This was the first tavern ever erected in Terre Haute — and it was erected by Henry Redford. The walls were up, the roof on, and the floors laid, but the rest all unfinished even the windows not in and there we celebrated the 4th of July, 1817.

"Major John J. Chunn of the army then commanded the Military Post at Fort Harrison. His officers were Lieutenants Sturges and Floyd, and Surgeon Clark and McCullough. Some respectable non-commissioned officers including 'Billy Noga' and his violin, and the Military Band of the Fort all contributed to the enjoyment of the occasion. The attempted celebration under the circumstances was mainly attributed to the officers of the Fort and they felt bound to carry it through. The 'medicine chest' of the garrison was made to contribute a quantum sufficient of good old wine and all else necessary were furnished with the greatest profusion. Speeches, toasts and patriotic songs were the order of the day until a late hour, when

couriers were dispatched in all directions, on horseback, to bring in the ladies. Some few families had settled on the east side of the Prairie and some on Honey Creek, and when brought together, formed a respectable company, and in the language of the old song we 'danced all night, till broad day light, and went home with the girls in the morning.' (signed) Lucius H. Scott."

Terre Haute Nail Works

Located South of City

Aug 29, 1971 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In 1868 a company was formed in Terre Haute for the purpose of manufacturing nails of all kinds. The newspapers of that time felt that readers might be interested in exactly how nails were produced from pig iron. A century ago the workings of ponderous machinery "driven by the power of that mighty auxilliary to human labor, steam," were of greater interest to the public than they are now.

The Nail Works was located on the line of the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad, and just in the southern suburbs of the city. They occupied over two acres of land.

The new company had a capital stock large enough to operate with two "setts" (shifts?) of hands, but at first there was no night work.

At one end of the building were located the "puddling" furnaces, eight in number, which were lined with fire clay and made so that the greatest intensity of heat could be obtained. The pig iron was placed in them in as small pieces as possible at about 3 a.m. each day where it was "boiled as if it were water."

When heated it was drawn off from the furnaces in iron boxes, placed on truck wheels, each box holding several hundred pounds of the molten metal. Spectators were warned that "those unaccustomed to look into the furnaces, cannot do so for more than an instant, the metal having attained such an intensely brilliant heat."

From the boxes the iron was thrown on what was called a rotary squeezer, a powerful machine driven with great rapidity. The iron was compressed and made more solid by this powerful machine, and then thrown off in balls. Workmen snatched the balls with tongs and passed them into the first "roller," through which they passed, coming out in a rough shape.



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After this first rolling process, the iron was immediately transferred to a "flat roller," coming out in slabs, or bars, of whatever width and thickness desirable. The metal was then transferred to a "shearer," where the rough edges were cut away, and where the bars of iron thus made were cut into pieces about eighteen inches long. This powerful "shearer" could cut iron from one and one-half inches in thickness, and from three to six inches in width.

These smaller bars were again placed in heating furnaces — of which there were two — and there heated to a "white heat."

Then one by one they were taken out and transferred on a "telegraph" to another set of rollers called the "roughing rollers," through which they passed three or four times, coming out in slabs from 15 to 18 inches in width, and from three to four feet in length, and all, of course, of a uniform thickness.

Next the slabs were placed in a finishing roller, coming out in whatever thickness necessary for the type of nails to be made. After this

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special cutting to size the slabs or plates were passed to the nail machines where with one motion of those powerful presses the nails were cut and formed perfectly in an instant. In 1870 there were 28 of these machines in use, and the company had ordered eight more. The factory was using 13 tons of pig iron per day, but expected to expand one-third more with

added machines and man power.

The smaller nails were made from cold slips, but it was necessary to heat the iron again for the larger ones. All nails made from cold iron were passed through a "blueing furnace" consisting of a revolving cylinder encased in a brick furnace. Some 250 kegs of nails were manufactured each day, and the estimate was made that 350 kegs would be possible after expansion.

Four steam engines were required to drive all this heavy machinery, one of 450 horse power, one of 80, and

two of about 10 horse power each.

Kinds of nails manufactured here were: "Fine blued," "Fence," "Casing," "Finish," and "Clinch" nails besides larger ones. The "Clinch" nails were placed in an iron box lined with fire-clay, covered with the same, and placed in the annealing furnace. Here they were brought to a "cherry red heat," taken out and cooled. They would bend or clinch like wrought iron nails.

The company employed their own coopers and operated a large cooper shop near the iron and nail works

where all the nail kegs were made. After being filled, the kegs were stored in a large ware house nearby, and from there were loaded on cars laying on a switch made for the use of the company. The nails were sold principally in the West and South and were of high quality.

Wesley Glover came to Terre Haute in June, 1867, and was chiefly instrumental in the location here of the nail works which began operation here in March, 1868. The company was organized in Youngstown, Ohio, and he came west to plan a location for the mill. We had no large

industries then, and the nail works was the opening of industrial expansion. Three hundred iron workers, at that time the highest paid class of labor, added much to the development of Terre Haute.

Story in 1870 Gazette

Ts JUN 4 1972

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Tells of Woolen Mills

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In 1854 Mr. G. F. Ellis commenced the manufacture of woolen goods in Terre Haute. Of course at that time the trade was small, but it steadily increased from year to year, until it formed an important part of the trade interests of the city. Ellis' mills were located on First street, between Ohio and Walnut, and were quite extensive. The building was 36 by 150 feet, three stories high, and well supplied with machinery of all kinds.

In 1870 a tour of the mills was made by a GAZETTE reporter and his account of what he saw is quite enlightening.

"The first room we entered, being the front one on the ground floor, is 36 by 90 feet, and contains one spinning machine, on which custom work is done exclusively, such as stocking yarn, etc., and nine carding machines for factory work, besides two used only for custom work. The carding machines are of the latest and best patterns, and those used for factory work, all have self feeders, which prove a great convenience, and saves the expense of hands to do that work. This feeding apparatus is a very perfect piece of machinery, and is worthy of the attention of any who may pass that way, and who have a curiosity to see how handsomely work can be done by machinery, apparently, without the aid of human hands. The wool having passed through one carding machine, by the self-feeder, is passed to another, where it is re-carded, and made ready for the spinner."

"In the rear of this room the steam engine is located, in another, which is 36 by 60 feet. A splendid engine of 60 horse power is used to move the machinery about the mills. From the engine room steam pipes issue to all parts of the building, which in case of fire are used to drown it out, and for the purpose of warming the carders and spinners in winter. To supply the steam, six of McClure's patent boilers are used, which are considered the best for that purpose.

"At the side of the main building the dye house is located, which is 40 by 40 feet,

and is supplied with tubs, kettles, etc., for the purpose of washing and coloring the wool. The raw material is taken there and transformed to any color desirable after which it is transferred to the carding

room, and from that it is kept moving until it is made into cloth of whatever kind is wished. From 300 to 500 pounds of wool can be colored in this dyehouse during one day.



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"Passing to the second story will be found two self-acting spinners, each having 408 spindles. These are the only ones of the kind, west of the mountains, we are told, and at the time they were purchased none were made in the United States, those spoken of having been imported from England expressly for the Wabash Woolen Mills. These self-acting spinners require but little attention, and will run by the power of steam, without attention for a half an hour or more, unless it be that a thread is broken. A boy 10 or 12 years of age can work, or attend one machine. So perfect is it, that when the threads are spun sufficiently, by its action, unaided by any human hand, they are wound on the spools at once, when immediately other threads are drawn, which go through

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a like process. This room is 36 by 90 feet.

"Immediately in the rear of the spinning room, is one 36 by 60 feet, in which 19 looms are kept constantly employed. Blankets, flannels, striped goods, cassinetts and cassimeres are all woven there, and when this part of the work is completed, the cloth thus produced is removed to the finishing department, where it passes through the 'zig', the brushing machine, etc., and finally to the measurer, where it is made into bolts of any size that may be desired. At least 500 yards of cloth are turned out by these looms each day, and so perfectly arranged is all the machinery, that but 36 hands in all, are required to attend it and keep it in motion. In all, 1,008 spindles are in use at the mills, and during the year, more than 125,000 pounds of wool are used to keep these in motion.

"At this establishment, flannel goods are made a specialty, but blankets, cassimeres, cassinetts, etc., of a superior quality are also made there. The office and sale room is at the side of, but attached to the main building. A full stock of all kinds of articles manufactured in the house are kept on hand. But little retailing is done, most of the goods being sold at wholesale, and they are sold in Chicago; in all the towns on the railroads leading West; and as far West as Kansas. This is perhaps the oldest establishment of the kind on the Wabash River, having been located 26 years ago (1870). The mills are in a flourishing condition."

Community Affairs File

George F. Ellis was born in Yorkshire, near Leeds, England, in 1811 and died here in Terre Haute in 1884. He emigrated in 1829 to the United States and located at Philadelphia, where he learned the manufacture of woolen fabrics. In 1835, he located near Dayton, Ohio, where he engaged working at his trade until 1853, when he again removed and became a resident of Terre Haute.

Mr. Ellis was aided in his business here by his son Edwin who was superintendent of the factory, salesman, business man and right hand man to his father. In 1880 the Wabash Woolen Mills were turning out 1,000 yards of cloth daily. Their speciality was occidental jeans which found a ready market in Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville and Indianapolis. They also manufactured a full line of blankets and yarn.

George F. and Harriet (Hollinger) Ellis had a family of five children. Edwin Ellis, the youngest, was born in 1848 in Montgomery County, Ohio. He married Laura Crawford at Lafayette, the daughter of Rev. Geo. W. Crawford of the Methodist Episcopal Church

TERRE HAUTE, IND.

MISSING

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Canton police are looking for a gorilla—of the statue variety.

Police said Arlie Cornell, owner of the Adventure Putt Golf Course, reported Thursday that the display attraction he kept at the course was missing.

The missing gorilla is described as 7½-feet high, covered by black nylon, with yellow eyes, outstretched arms and a red tongue.

there. They had two sons, Geo. F. and B. P. Edwin Ellis who organized the Electric Light Company here in 1885.

Store at Markle's Mill Served Pioneers Well

Ts SEP 16 1973 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Markle's Mill, constructed on Otter Creek in 1816 by Major Abraham Markle, continued to operate for 122 years until destroyed by fire on Sept. 20, 1938. It is not known exactly when the mill began operation, but the old account books saved from the fire show entries as early as 1817. Many items could have been recorded on a slate or on scraps of paper or by the less business-like method of marking up the item on the back of the door.

However, from 1817 on there is an almost complete record of the doings at the old mill. The greater part of these business transactions refer to whisky, with cornmeal, flour, salt, and lumber contributing a break in the liquid monotony. The wide variety of other items of merchandise would indicate that milling and distilling were only a part of the business done there.

The nearest trading point was a store at Fort Harrison three miles southwest on the bank of the Wabash river, and this was to close five years later. There was no other place to trade nearer than the little village of Terre Haute that supported a store. Since the newly-formed Parke county routed travelling homesteaders from Vincennes and Terre Haute to the newly-opened lands by way of the Otter Creek Mills, Markle wisely prepared to intercept the trade by supplying the needs of the community in the store operated in addition to his grist mill, distillery and sawmill.

The first entry in one book was made Sept. 16, 1822, and recorded a charge of \$5.00 for ten gallons of whisky to M. H. Wallace. A second item is the credit of the same to "Christmas Dishnay."

Christmas Dishnay was Terre Haute's first born citizen, the son of Ambrose Dagenette (as it was later spelled) and an Indian mother to whom he was born on Christmas day, 1799, at the little Wea Village of a dozen or less huts on the hill where now is located the settling basins of the water works.



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By 1820 Christmas Dishnay had become the agent for the Miamis and the contractor at the Fort. His mother and sisters and possibly he, himself, lie buried in a little cemetery just above Armiesburg in Parke county.

From the pages of these books come prices and quantities that seem unbelievable to the reader as compared to our present day supermarkets. The following are examples of days sales as taken from those books:

September 17, 1822 -- 27 lbs. flour, 10 lbs. flour, one barrel salt, one quart whisky, one quart whisky.

September 11, 1822 -- 36 gallons whisky at 43 3/4 cents, one barrel whisky at 43 3/4 cents, one bottle Porter 25 cents, cash at Vincennes \$1.25. This is charged to the account of Joseph Blackburn, while on the same date Asa Owen is charged with 3 1/2 yards of factory at 25 cents, and David Moyer is charged with 25 lbs. of salt at \$1.00. To David Tevebaugh, three gallons whisky at 75 cents, and 59 lbs. corn meal at one cent.

On the same date, Asa Owen received 17 1/2 lbs. salt "for soles" which is inter-

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preted to mean "for Bildad or Old Bill Soules."

Elisha Brown, 1/2 gallon of oil at \$1.00, and David Moyer is charged with \$1.25 for a "bailing kettle."

October, 1822 -- E. U. Brown, 1,046 lbs. salt, \$31.38; Arieck Harmon, 34 3/4 gallons whisky. While the purchases thus far listed are all by men, the following articles were purchased by Mrs. David Moyer, wife of one of the settlers: Tea, \$1.06; coffee, \$1.00; hair comb, 25 cents; seven yards plaid sheeting, \$3.50; cash, 50 cents; one pair shoes, \$1.50; and 3 1/2 yards plaid, \$1.50.

The next day this man was credited with 75 cents for a deer skin and \$2.00 for "two ditto."

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November 1, 1822, may have been the first cold weather for on that day Asa Owen was charged with the purchase of two and one-half yards of flannel at 75 cents and one pair cotton cards which indicated his work was inside rather than in the fields, and on the ninth of November, he is charged with "To pair crockery and factory \$3.12 1/2" but the reader will have to figure for himself.

The term "factory" referred to cloth made in a factory as different from homespun or woven material that was more common, but "crockery" by the "pair" is more difficult to decipher. On the tenth, Mr. Owen has the unusual

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purchase of "1 Quart Rum and 8½ lbs. Tallow" charged to his account.

The season for buckwheat cakes opened in this month of November, with sales recorded in very large quantities at the price of 3 cents per pound.

On the 17th, William Holmes is charged with "half pound Tea 50 cents, some powder and lead, and a bottle of whisky." This seems to have been the first time whisky was sold in that form here, the most of it being in quarts, gallons, kegs or barrels.

Few of the early items in this old book are other than purchases by men of the family and the women either bought elsewhere or paid cash, or bartered their garden truck for what they needed. In later years other items on the books of a feminine nature appear in stock to cater to the women folk, but at this time more than 60 per cent of the items was whisky alone.

Scattered through the pages we find, too, many of the men are credited with work in or for the mills, some of the working agreements very clearly stated concerning pay.

September 18th. Mr. Blackburn commenced work July 20 at "\$20.00 a month, one-third in cash, the balance in whisky at 43¾ cents per gallon." but at the settling of his account there was this notation: "credit with his labor and charged with \$8.25 worth of whisky, and \$13.75 in cash in full to date."

An item of November tells that David Mover commenced furnishing distillery malt and kill and house the 15th of November, 1822, to furnish the same for one year for which he is to have 450 gallons rectified whisky, team and wages furnished him." While his labor was to be paid for in a wage of whisky, it was his wife who took in washings and

mending to pay the food bill at the store.

February 21 finds entered on the books a credit of one day hunting hogs to each Thomas Mitchell Jr., and Azariah Tilley. And so went the beginning of barter and trade in Virginia County.

First Local Undertaker's Account Books Now Indexed

S MAY 16 1972

Clark, Dorothy

Community Affairs File

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

An index of three account books of Isaac Ball, Terre Haute's first undertaker, has been compiled to provide historians and genealogists with more readily accessible information for research.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, professional genealogist and executive secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society, compiled this invaluable index from the account books covering the period from September, 1883, to April, 1889.

She said the index contains thousands of entries showing names, addresses of the deceased, sometimes the causes of death, and will be used by individuals who come from all over the country to consult these records. Prior to the

publication of this index, the records had to be brought from the vault of the Ball-Porter Funeral Home.

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The records were loaned by Francis Porter, of the Ball-Porter Funeral Home, and copies have been presented to the Historical Museum Library, the funeral home, the Vigo County Public Library and the Indiana State Library at Indianapolis.

The listing is more than simply an alphabetical listing which gives the name and the particular account book and page of the entry. Mrs. Clark's index, which took her about a year to compile, gives additional information which provides a commentary on certain sociological aspects of life in the latter part of the 19th century.

There's many a possibility for a contemporary Edgar Allen Poe or O. Henry short story writer who might want to bring his imagination to bear on some of the entries.

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For instance there is an entry for "Baker" which reads "Riley PO; Lockport; this is for Wm. S. Hasinger; funeral postponed Friday to Sunday on account of fears body was not dead" for May 1, 1887.

Another rather poignant entry reads "comited suicide at Na-

tional House; body sent to Union City, Iowa." National House, Mrs. Clark said, was a downtown hotel, now demolished, on Sixth St. near Wabash Ave.

Another such listing notes the circumstances of death: "William Search, Mar. 14, 1887, newspaper clipping including railway brakeman killed on C and E.I. giving all details."

Mrs. Clark has retained the original spellings which include Seelyville as "Sealyville." She said that often Mr. Ball arranged for funeral services to take place in Riley and he shipped the body to Riley on the Vandalia Railroad. A surprising number of entries show that Mr. Ball arranged for funerals in many other parts of the country.

+ + +

Since this was before the days of modern refrigeration or embalming, he invented a "corpse preserver," a model of which is currently on display in the museum. He constructed an inner metal shell for the coffin in which the body was placed. Ice then was packed in the space between the outer shell and the metal trough; as the ice melted the water could be drained through a spigot at one end of the coffin.

Isaac Ball was born in Elizabethtown, N.J., on Aug. 29, 1829. He moved with his parents to Wayne county in Indiana when he was seven and at age 16 he was apprenticed for five years to a cabinet maker. However, he left before his apprenticeship was ended to learn the undertaking trade in Indianapolis.

He returned to Terre Haute in 1887 and formed a partnership with Charles Triche, an early cabinet maker. The combination of Ball's training resulted in the opening of the first funeral parlor in the city at the southwest corner of Second and Cherry Sts.

He later moved to 30 N. 3rd St. and then to 20-22 S. 5th St., and finally to 331 S. 3rd St. His first burials were among the last made at the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground and he also made some of the first burials in Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Pillsbury plant parking lot occupies the site of the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground, the oldest cemetery site in the city, and a portion of this has been preserved as an historic site.

Isaac Ball was the first president of the Funeral Directors of Indiana and was first elected in 1881 and re-elected in 1882.

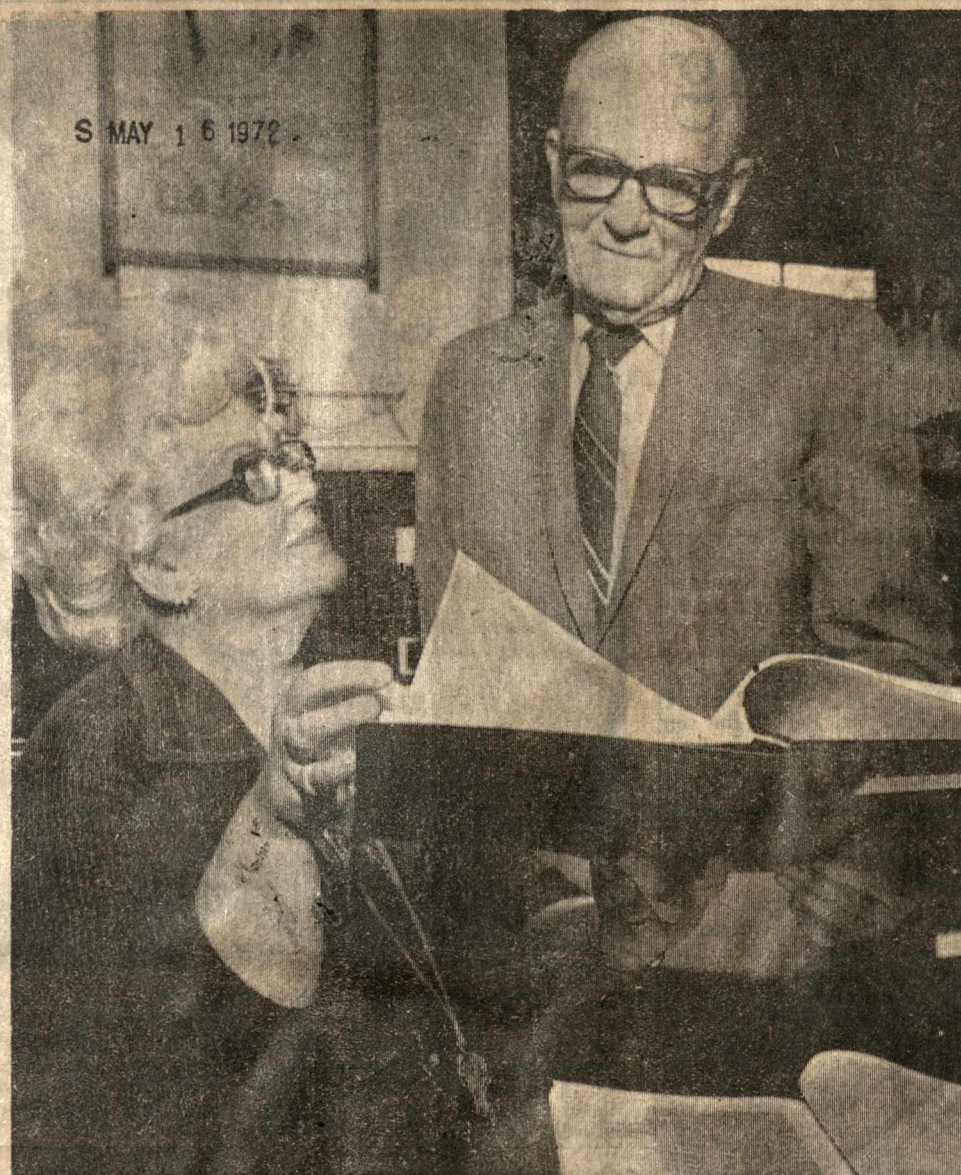
He died on Sept. 3, 1907, and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery. He was survived by his widow, Caroline Taylor Ball; a son, Frank; a daughter Tillie E. Ball Hess; a brother Caleb in Iowa and a brother William in Terre Haute.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

The Star, Terre Haute, Ind., Tuesday, May 16, 1972.



TO HELP HISTORIANS — Mrs. Dorothy Clark, left, executive secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society, spent a year compiling an index of three account books of Isaac Ball, Terre Haute's first undertaker. She is shown here presenting a copy to Francis Porter who has the original books, earliest known records of Isaac Ball. (Photo by Kadel)

Historically Speaking

TO NOV 9 1975
Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



NOV 9 1975

Banks and Banking (TH)

Last week's column began the story of the Terre Haute First National Bank, oldest bank in the city, tracing its growth and merger of several pioneer banking institutions which have served the city through more than 140 years of its development from a tiny village to a thriving city.

Demas Deming Jr. had entered the banking business with his father when he was only 16 years of age. Known as the "boy banker" because of his tender years, he became a stockholder in the First National Bank in 1868 by an exchange of interest with D. W. Minshall, who joined McKeen under the firm name of McKeen & Minshall, while Deming became president of First National.

In 1876, McKeen & Minshall moved into their own banking home at the northwest corner of 6th and Wabash Ave. A year later, Minshall retired and the firm became known as McKeen & Company, still a private bank with no power of issue.

In 1905, because of a change in legislation applying to private banks, McKeen & Company became McKeen National Bank, which had, in 1894, built a new bank building on the south side of Wabash Ave., between 5th and 6th (this is now the Branch Bank of Terre Haute First National at 513 Wabash Ave.) This was the First McKeen National Bank.

Almost at the same time as the organization of the Southern Bank, the Prairie City Bank was organized and took up its quarters in the same building, just two doors south. C. W. Barbour was president, with Callom H. Bailey as cashier. The bank rapidly became an outstanding Terre Haute institution.

In the summer of 1854, it moved into a building erected for its own use on the north side of the square, a three-story brick, the second building west of 3rd St. After 15 years in this location, it followed the eastward trend of business and moved into new quarters in 1869 on the east side of 6th Street, north of the alley south of Wabash Ave., where it occupied a part of the

room with the newly-organized Terre Haute Savings Bank. John S. Beach had become cashier in 1856, and was president at the time of the removal and its failure in 1893.

The United States Trust Company, organized in 1902, merged in 1927 with the Terre Haute National Bank. In 1932, another merger joined the Terre Haute National Bank with the First McKeen National Bank to form the Terre Haute First National Bank, located at 643 Wabash Ave.

Formerly used by the United States Trust Company, the bank building at 643 Wabash Ave., after being completely remodeled inside and out, held its formal opening June 18, 1928.

Outstanding mural decorations were installed in

the lunettes of the dome-shaped ceiling. These were painted by Vincent Aderente, famous New York artist, whose works are to be found in some of the finest public buildings, churches and theatres of the country. The color scheme of the bank's interior was planned to conform with the artist's painting in blue and gold.

Painted in oil on canvas, the larger-than-life figures were designed to appear life size when viewed forty feet from the level of the floor.

The east side of the rear window shows the figure of "Thrift" holding a chest. The other figure is being crowned with "Success" resulting from saving and banking methods. On the west side of the rear window, the figure holding the cornucopia represents "Wealth," backed by the figure representing "Power" that comes from banking resources.

The west side mural features a figure in the center hovering over a widow and orphans, depicting the trust department and savings for protection and care.

The north section of the mural shows a figure with mines and toiling in coal, metals, etc. The south section of this wall mural features a figure with produce representing agriculture and farming.

On the east wall of the bank, the center portion features a figure with a globe and cog wheel depicting travel and continuous industry and transportation, including the telephone and telegraph.

The north section of this mural shows a figure with factories indicating industry and manufacturing. The south section shows a figure with mercury staff, emblem of carriers and transportation, import, exports and tourists. The figure looks into the sky where an airplane resembling Lindberg's "Spirit of St. Louis" is shown. This is the

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first time in the history of mural decoration that an airplane was included in the symbolic painting. One of the largest paintings of its kind, the canvases took over six months to complete and cost over \$2,500.

The Terre Haute First National Bank still carries the charter number of 47, having been the 47th national bank to be established in this country.

This local financial institution, of which Terre Haute is justly proud, went through the famous "bank moratorium" in 1933 and was one of the first five banks in the entire State of Indiana permitted to open on the first day following the expiration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's moratorium.

Proud of their heritage, the officers and directors of Terre Haute First National Bank claim the best traditions and standards of the older days still prevail, the old practices only are modified to meet the modern needs of today.

First National Bank Has Enviably History

Community Affairs File

Banks and Banking (T.H.)

18 NOV 2 1975

BY DOROTHY CLARK

The Terre Haute First National Bank, oldest bank in the City of Terre Haute, has a long and enviable history, the culmination of growth and the merger of several pioneer banking institutions which have served the city through more than 140 years of its development from a tiny village to a thriving city.

One after another, these earlier banks furnished the money that built the National Road, the railroads and the Wabash & Erie Canal, that financed the freight of the steamboats from here to New Orleans and the eastern markets.

The building of the streets, the gravel roads of the county, the building and operating of the old pork-packing houses, the purchase of salt, the copper shops that made the barrels both for pork and whisky, and the distilleries and breweries that used the grain, the very buildings, all were financed by these old banking institutions that were the backbone of commercial activities that helped to make Terre Haute.

The Terre Haute First National Bank first came into being as the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank of Indiana, established under the state banking act of 1834 which divided the state into 10 districts. The ninth district included Vigo, Clay, Owen, Putnam, Parke and Vermillion counties, with the branch bank to be located at Terre Haute, in Vigo County.

Opened in November, 1834, the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank of Indiana was located on Ohio Street, between 2nd and 3rd streets. The building, now known as Memorial Hall, is still standing, the oldest business building in the city, and recently included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Demas Deming Sr. (1787-1865) who came to Terre Haute in 1818, served as president during its existence, and Chauncey Warren was the secretary. The directors were Curtis Gilbert, James Farrington, John D. Early, David Linton, Samuel Crawford and John Sunderland.

James Farrington, the first cashier, was succeeded by Aaron B. Fontaine, Nathaniel Preston, Joseph S. Jenckes, William B. McKeen and Preston Hussey.

The 25-year charter of the State Bank required it to close out its business on Jan. 1, 1859. The Bank had been very successful, having made a profit of two and a half million dollars on its investment. Through the dark days of the Panic of 1837 it stood alone of all the banks west of the Alleghenies, safe and secure with no loss to stockholders or depositors.

By the end of 1858, the bank had paid the final dividend to the stockholders and closed its books. In addition to knowledge of banks and bankers, a teller in those days had to recognize counterfeits and to have a ready knowledge of such coins as thalers, sovereigns, napoleons, dragoons, Spanish doubloons, guineas, guilders, ducats, Spanish pillar dollars, five-franc pieces, English shillings, Portuguese, old

French and English gold pieces, patriot, Mexican and Columbian doubloons, notes of state banks and others in distant parts, all needed to be valued.

Some of the extraordinary expenses of those days are shown by the payment to Curtis Gilbert in 1851 of one hundred dollars for transporting silver to New York and exchanging it for gold coins. On another occasion, Demas Deming Sr. was paid forty dollars for transporting gold to New York.

The Branch Bank of the State of Indiana was reorganized and continued in business until 1865 when an act of the State Legislature closed all branches. Congress had passed a bill authorizing national banks, so the old State Bank was reorganized and called the National State Bank. In 1866-67 the bank was moved to a new building on the southwest corner of 5th and Wabash Ave. where the Saratoga Restaurant is now located.

In 1868, because of the enactment of a federal tax of 10 per cent on its circulation, the bank's assets were sold to George W. Bement and Preston Hussey, equal partners.

Demas Deming Sr. had passed away in 1865, shortly after his retirement as president of the bank, and Levi G. Warren had been elected president. Before the bank was established, however, Mr. Warren died suddenly, and Preston Hussey, cashier of the State Bank, was elected president of the new National State Bank.

Charles W. Warren was the first cashier of this bank, a position he held until about 1890, when he resigned and was succeeded by W. E. Donaghue, who held the position for seven or eight years. John R. Cunningham was the next cashier.

The National State Bank was in business during two charters, a period of 40 years, and in 1905, when the last charter expired, the bank reorganized under the name of

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the Terre Haute National Bank

At this time Preston Hussey was president, and his son, Warren Hussey, who entered in the bank in 1894, was cashier. Between the time that Cunningham and Hussey served as cashier, George H. Harris held the position for about three years.

Mr. Hussey remained at the head of the Terre Haute National Bank until 1912, just one year before his death. He was succeeded by John Crawford, who died in 1921. Wilson Naylor Cox, one of the directors, was named to fill the vacancy. Warren Hussey continued as cashier until 1908, and when he resigned, Frank C. Fisbeck was appointed.

In the meantime, when the Indiana General Assembly passed the free banking law, at least four new banks were organized in Terre Haute. They were the Southern Bank of Indiana, the Prairie City Bank, the Traders Bank, and the Merchants Bank. Only the first two mentioned are of interest to the history of Terre Haute First National Bank.

The Southern Bank opened in the Rose Building at the northwest corner of 2nd and Ohio. Owned by Joseph H. Williams, his son Francis S. Williams, and Charles B. Wright of Erie, Pa., it began business in December, 1853. Cashiers were first C. E. Gunnison, then George C. Huy, son-in-law of Judge S. B. Gookins.

In March, 1854, the bank was removed to the southwest corner of 4th and Wabash in a new building just completed by Levi G. Warren. From there it moved to its new building on the southeast corner in October, 1858. Here, on Feb. 25, 1863, it became the First National Bank of Terre Haute, still under the management of J. H. Williams. Among the stockholders was D. W. Minshall.

Next week's column will continue with the history of Terre Haute's oldest banking firm.

Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

Ts JAN 25 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Even though the Wabash Valley area depended greatly on its coal-mining industry for several decades before World War I, few citizens experienced the terrifying trip down into a coal mine. Even the coal miners themselves seldom talked about their work, preferring not to even think about it in their leisure hours.

Ts JAN 25 1976

Several years ago, a newspaper reporter decided to visit the Lower Vein Mine No. 1 of the Richards Coal Company, located among the wild ravines of the river bluffs north of the city. This mine and the life of the miners underneath the surface is typical of that of the thousands of miners of the 11th District of Indiana, who worked in mines on the western side of the state and provided much revenue for Terre Haute.

With a shriek of the whistle of the hoisting engine, down the cage dropped into the realms of darkness so rapidly there was little time for thought. Only a falling sensation was experienced in the rapid drop of more than 206 feet, filling feet downward in darkness as in a nightmare.

With one jerk, the cage settles, and you are on the bottom. But this was only the first of the many sensations of fear and claustrophobia. Thousands of miners spent eight or nine hours a day picking, digging, shoveling, delving and blasting.

It is said that the knowledge of the danger of existence so far beneath the earth's surface, where hundreds meet death every year, soon leaves those taking up the miner's vocation. Shut in from light for several hours each day, furnished with air only by means of an immense fan far above, and with the resounding crash of falling slate to break the monotony of the chug-chugging drill or the steady and rhythmic rasp of the shovel as the coal is lifted from the bottom in the bed of the cars, the miner soon becomes indifferent to his dangers and is a happy-go-lucky reckless sort of fellow. Man's ingenuity in reclaiming this long-buried fuel from nature's storehouse is mind-boggling.

Before beginning the visit to the mine, the visitors were provided with lamps and caps.

The lamps appeared to be constructed much on the order of a miniature tea pot, but instead of being filled with the beverage, it was filled with an oil known as "bank" oil, especially adapted for lighting purposes inside the mine, since the smallest amount of smoke is given off by the amount of light produced. Dressed in suits of duck, the party proceeded. Once on the bottom, it required several minutes for the eyes to become accustomed to the meagre light, but soon objects were easily discerned for some distance down the main entry of "double pardon," as it was known in the miner's parlance. Two tracks led in from the north and south sides. Switches were provided by which cars of coal might be switched to either cage, while "empties" as they were called, were kicked off to the farther side of the "sump." The sump is the excavation under the cage into which, in many mines, the water is drained and then pumped out. After the cars are kicked off by the "cagers," they were pulled back to the "double

pardon" or the main tracks by passing at either side of the pit.

As soon as the party had reached the bottom, word was soon conveyed to the farthestmost man who was on duty that day that a camera party was "on the bottom with a Kodak." Everybody was welcome to get in the picture. Even "Dynamite," the mule, noted for his ability to lift the slate roof skyward on various occasions, was included. Strings of loaded cars waited on the bottom to be hoisted to the top to be weighed, screened, cleaned and shipped to market.

The reporter learned that the air fan, built like a windmill, was constructed to drive the air instead of being driven by it, and was capable of delivering 100 cubic feet of air to every man, and 300 feet to each mule in the mine every minute.

The visitors were loaded in an empty mine car pulled by Dynamite and taken deeper into the mine. They were warned to "Hold tight, Johnny, and watch your head." Frequent shouts of "Low bridge" were heard before the welcome "Whoa" was heard and everybody climbed out. Here the roof was only four feet, eight inches from the floor in a typical miner's room. Leaving the entry on either side at an angle of 45 degrees, the walls of the room receded. Piled in the middle and extending back to the wall lay approximately six or eight tons of coal, the result of the firing on the previous evening. Miners were paid for their work at different rates: according to the class of work done. One price is paid for "driving" an entry, another for "turning" a room, and another for mining in the room.

Holes were drilled in the face of the coal to different depths, according to the kind of shot fired. Mining powder, known as "FF," is tamped in these and the shooter making his rounds in the evening after other miners have left the pit, touches off the blasts, leaving the mass of coal ready for the shovel and the car in the morning.

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Rooms were cut in such a manner as to leave a quantity of coal unmined. This was known as a "pillar" to support the roof. "Props" or timbers do not support the roof as in the popular notion. Instead, they merely steady the millions of tons of rock, slate, boulders and dirt in settling. The pillars do the supporting. When the roof once begins to give, timbers snap as if they were toothpicks or are driven endwise into the bottom by the enormous weight, but nearly always warning is given. The slate begins to crack and "chip" or "cut". Splinters fly from the props, snapping loose with a peculiar "ping" which is readily recognized by the experienced miner. Sometimes additional props are placed to further steady the mass above, but as far as supporting the roof, that is out of the question.

When the rooms on one side are worked out, the work of "pulling the pillars" or cutting out the supports of coal begins at the back side and are removed towards the main entry. This is the most dangerous work of all, and only the most experienced men are permitted to do this work. The supports of coal are gradually and slowly removed. As they are pulled, the roof follows and relieves the strain on other portions of the mine roof. Veins of coal, to a certain extent, follow the stratification of the earth's crust and pressure is made first to one side and then the other, depressions appearing where hollows appear above, although far less pronounced

in the folds.

Totling from 7 a. m. until 3 30 p. m., far from daylight and the pure air of nature, the miner led a life of danger. The first work of the morning was to clean up after the shooters and to clean up what slate may have fallen during the night. Lunch time came about 10 a.m., with dinner at 12 noon. The miners gathered in groups along the entries. With their hands grimed with coal dust, and water for washing out of the question, the men fell to with a healthy appetite and ate their meals.

100 years ago

Public Utilities (T.H.)

Terre Haute's first wired words whispered

TS MAY 4 - 1980

According to the Terre Haute Daily News of Feb. 19, 1880, the City Council passed unanimously an ordinance granting privileges to Henry A. Keith and others for construction and maintenance of telephone lines in the city according to their proposal.

The Terre Haute Telephone Exchange was incorporated by its stockholders: W. B. Tuell, \$5,000; President Herman Hulman, \$5,000; Secretary-Treasurer Frank McKeen, \$5,000; J. G. Williams, \$3,000, and Manager E. L. Norcross, \$2,000. Their purpose was "to connect any and all points located within a radius of five miles in all directions from the State Normal Building."

Four days later, the newspaper reported that "The telephone will soon be whispering over the housetops, through the streets, asking the ear of each one it meets."

Six days later, the new Telephone Exchange was located in a room in Beach's "new block" with wires running out to all parts of the city with a common center on top of the block,

and from there running down into the Exchange office.

Here was installed one and later another Universal Switch standing upright seven feet tall, and consisting of a flat board on the rear side of which and at the upper part were a series of annunciator magnets. Numbers were painted on the front side of the board, with a magnet in the rear for each number. An iron shutter about the size of a nickel and with an arched top was hinged at the bottom and held in position over each number by a catch which connected the magnet.

Below the annunciator on the switch board were what were technically called "jack-knife" switches, taking their name from a slight resemblance to a closed jack-knife. There were just as many of these on the switchboard as there were numbers on the annunciator above. Still lower on the board was the "call-plate." Below it were "straps" used for connecting two or more lines together and for giving

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By Dorothy Clark



disconnecting signs.

How did it work? Well, the newspaper explained, telephones have numbers corresponding with those on the annunciator. Suppose the Daily News (No. 21) wanted to converse with someone at the Terre Haute House (No. 10). He would press the call key which throws a current from the battery there over the wire to the Exchange, through the jack-knife switch and communication magnet to the ground.

This current raised the catch which held up the shutter, the shutter fell, and disclosed No. 21 on the switchboard. The attendant saw the number and took up the switchman's

telephone, inserted the plug end of the cord in the jack-knife, giving direct communication with the Daily News.

He would call "Well?" or "Halloa?" and was answered back that connection was wanted with the Terre Haute House or No. 10. The switchman then placed in the other hole of the jack-knife one of the plugs of a switch cord, and the plug in the other end of the cord he placed in a connecting strip of the call plate.

He next took the switchman's telephone and put the plug in the jack-knife switch of No. 10, calling the Terre Haute House, with this jack-knife switch cord, the same as he did

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with No. 21.

He then tapped the call plate with the ply on the other end of this cord three times. This threw the calling battery current over the line, ringing the bell in the Terre Haute House, and the call was answered. The switchman then connected the switch cord with the calling plate, as he did that of No. 21, and the two places were then connected and ready for conversation. All this work is done in less than half a minute's time. The same operation would connect No. 21 with any other number on the switchboard.

Usually the fall of the shutter made noise enough to attract the attention of the switchman, but in addition there was an alarm bell which would ring until the switchman would stop it. The News didn't know at that time, but supposed someone would be on duty in the Exchange at night as well as day. The Telephone Exchange, they said, was a big thing, and people would soon wonder how they managed to get along without it. On

the exact date it would be in operation, "this deponeth saith not."

Subscribers to the new telephone service were solicited by Norcross on March 15. The same prices were charged as in Indianapolis and Evansville — \$4 a month for dwellings; business houses \$5 a month.

On March 12, it was reported that there were two trunk lines, one running south on the alley between Fourth and Fifth streets, and the other running north on the alley between Third and Fourth streets. These two lines were to connect with one running east and west on Main Street. The poles used on Main Street were 50 feet high, while those on the trunk lines were 40 feet high. The office was located on Wabash near Sixth Street.

On March 31, 1880, the exchange office opened in the third floor of the Deming Block over the Midland offices. The wires were put up April 2, and by May 1 was in working order. The wires were whispering over the downtown area at least one hundred years ago.

From basins and pans to modern

General Housewares Corp. of Terre Haute can trace its beginnings back to the period of industrial expansion that followed the end of the Civil War.

In Bellaire, Ohio, a small town located a few miles down the Ohio river from Wheeling, W. Va., the firm named Bellaire Stamping Company (no connection whatsoever with the present company of that name located there) was organized in 1871 to manufacture kerosene lanterns and miners' head lamps.

During the first 10 years, this company merged with another lantern manufacturer and also a glass company. By 1891, 20 years after its founding, the company had several operations — a stamping works of two buildings, a glass works of about six buildings, and a large warehouse.

In that same year, 1891, was the first record found of the manufacture of enameled ware. The first simple items made were wash basins and dish pans, previously made of tin.

Patented May 30, 1876, the glazed ware, sometimes called "Granite Iron Ware," was approved by prominent chemistry professors, state assayers, chemists and toxicologists and found to be completely safe, durable and wholesome, combining the advantages of glass with the strength of metal.

Enameled ware popular

As early as 1877, the housewife could purchase granite ware teapots, coffee pots, water pitchers, sauce pans and pots, rice or milk boilers, farina boilers, butter kettles, cruller or potato fryers, tea kettles, preserving kettles, stew pans and colanders.

Also, fry pans, mixing bowls, grocer scoops, water buckets, wine coolers, trays, slop buckets, batter buckets, pie plates, dish pans, cake moulds, pudding pans, tableware, tumblers, broilers, basting spoons, oyster stands, muffin pans, skimmers, dippers, foot tubs, soup dishes, pitcher and bowl sets, chamber pots and slop jars.

At this time the enameled kitchen ware business was growing rapidly. There were only two other manufacturers in the enameled ware field. One was an eastern firm whose product was known as Agate Ware, and the other was located in the midwest producing Granite Ware. Later on this company built a plant across the river from St. Louis which developed into the thriving town of Granite City, Ill.

Events cause move here

In 1891, after extensive fire damage, the Bellaire Plant decided to expand further and built an entirely new plant at West Harvey, Ill., a suburb of Chicago which is now 147th Street on Chicago's South Side.

It became known as Columbian, the name adopted from Chicago's famous Columbian Exposition or World's Fair. However, progress had a severe setback. Another fire on New Year's Eve of 1900 burned to the ground the entire plant at Harvey, Ill.

After careful consideration, the offer made by Terre Haute to bring Columbian Enameling & Stamping Co. here was accepted. At that time Terre Haute was the center of the coal fields, it was served by four main line railroads, it was near the center of population, it had ample

enameled ware

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Ts FEB 15 1981

By Dorothy Clark



labor supply, and an abundant supply of pure water, an import requirement for manufacturing enameled ware.

Built on Country Club site

On a 15-acre site, once the golf course of the Terre Haute Country Club, was built the largest and most modern enameling plant of its time. Approximately two-thirds of the 15 acres were covered with buildings, including its own power house, water system, storage and warehouse buildings, and other necessary facilities. Additions to the original building plus some new buildings during the next 50 years now total 13 acres under roof.

Buying habits change

Since the first manufacture of enameled ware in Terre Haute 80 years ago, the buying habits of the nation have changed considerably. Aluminum, stainless steel, glass, etc., have reduced the market somewhat for enameled cooking utensils.

Principal markets were the "cotton picking" states, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America. In these localities, certain sanitary items were sold in large volume. Many used the combinets with a bail handle as convenient vessels in which to cook rice for large families.

One customer bought two carloads of those items per month, which means 30,000 items — and 30,000 of these items per month required a lot of beds to put them under!

The old Columbian firm was taken over by General Housewares Corp., and now manufactures other items other than strictly enameled ware. They make thermos bottles, picnic jugs, portable ice chests and other "outdoor living" specialties.

Browsing through the company's outlet store in Town South Plaza, it's nostalgic to compare the brightly decorated modern day kitchen ware with the plain white or mottled grey or blue granite ware of a century ago.

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Historically Speaking

Creamery, cheese factory
at Prairie Creek recalledBy DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

At the turn of the century, the Prairie Creek Cooperative Creamery and Cheese Factory was located in Prairie Creek (or Middleton, as it was called then).

Thanks to Warren Yeager, whose grandfather was Warren Milton Yeager, and whose father, Vincent Yeager, was secretary-treasurer, some of the records of the company were preserved. It was in existence only about six years, from 1899 until 1905, and he had the desk and the quart stone ink bottle used in the office.

The old building is still standing on the street south, back of the Marathon station, in Prairie Creek, but it has been remodeled as a residence by Pearl Ring, carpenter, with the floor on top of the creamery building.

Yeager can remember the engineer, William Weir, who fired the boiler for the steam engine to turn the overhead pulley shafts to run the big churns. Perry L. Johnson was brought here from Ohio to be the butter maker.

He told of the huge wooden vats (no stainless steel in those days), the round cheeses suspended from the ceiling on wooden racks to cure, sometimes with frost on the top in the cold winters. The butter was shipped east in wooden firkins. Their Elgin Gilt-Edge Butter was considered top grade.

Cheese was always a popular item in the little country stores as well as in the city. Cheddar and long-horn were the most popular, along with what was commonly called "rat cheese."

Cheddar came in 50 pound lugs with a thick wax coating to protect it. Long-horn came in long tubes in a wooden box. Slices were cut off with a sharp knife and then weighed.

The cracker barrel was always nearby. Men came to the store and sometimes ate a dime's worth of cheese and crackers when they got hungry.

Yeager's grandfather, Thomas L. Trueblood, owned the canning factory located at the foot of the hill on Indiana 63 in Prairie Creek north of the present Baptist Church. The building is still standing and used as a barn.

This factory furnished employment for many women in the area, canning mainly tomatoes and green beans under a private label and distributed by Bement-Rea in Terre Haute.

The minutes book of the Prairie Creek Creamery was opened Feb. 18, 1899, when the directors met and chose officers. Riley Pogue was the first president. Several men submitted small bills for their work on cutting ice and hauling it to the new ice house, and for lumber, shingles, a barrel of salt and a load of sawdust.

The next month, the directors met and after incorporation for \$6,000, certificates were issued to the stockholders at \$50 a share. Joseph Thompson, Joseph Harper and Joseph Debaun held four shares each.

Those with two shares of stock were Riley Pogue, Vincent Yeager, M. H. Piety, William Fitzpatrick, Lewis B. Hale, O. C. Brewer, Warren M. Yeager, Quincy A. Hunt and John C. Gross.

Also, Samuel Paddock, Rebecca Weir, Alpheus Athey, Arthur Bowen, Nicholas Yeager, Julia A. McClanahan, Frances Morgan, A. R. Yeager, T. L. Trueblood and Eunice A. Trueblood.

And, Barton W. Beard, William S. Lee, F. B. Shields, Sarah Bridwell, Seth Clark, John D. Gobin, Albert Sutliff and A. C. Dowell.

Holding one share of stock were Nelson Sutliff, C. W. Weeks, Izora Compton, Charles Rankin, Martha Devol, Franklin Clark, M. K. Paddock, Hiram Farmer and A. N. Jones.

Also, Nancy Johnson, Alpheus Johnson, O. M. Chambers, Rebecca Clark, William Compton, Oscar Anderson, G. W. Whalen, Josephus Thomas and James W. McHugh.

At the annual stockholders meeting in April, 1899, Joseph Thompson was elected president; Pogue, vice president and Vincent Yeager, secretary-treasurer. Business was picking up as a helper for the butter maker was hired and the salary for the secretary was set at \$2 per day.

In July, William Bledsoe offered to fill the coal house at \$1.65 a ton for the year. There was trouble with the old cream separator, and a new one had to be purchased. Even with

the trade-in the cost was \$200.

On Jan. 29, 1900, it was voted to pay \$1.50 per day for hands to work on the ice and \$2.50 per day for teams and hauling. A cold winter with thick ice to cut and store was mandatory before artificial refrigeration.

An annual dividend of six percent was declared the first year, and by 1902 was raised to eight percent. The company hauled milk to the factory by horse and wagon, charging patrons ten cents per hundred pounds. By 1902 milk was getting scarce, and by 1903, there was not enough coming in to pay expenses incurred in running the plant.

In 1902 prices for butter ranged from 22 cents a pound to 30 cents, according to the season; cheese, ten cents a pound; buttermilk, two gallons 25 cents, and 3½ gallon cream container, \$1.75. Butter ranged from 19 to 27 cents in 1903, and went up to 25 cents in 1904.

During the final year, Johnson, the butter maker, ran the plant at his own risk, but by April, 1904, he had had enough. There was no milk, and it was decided to shut down. The half acre of land in Section 35, T10, R10, along with the factory buildings, machinery and all equipment was sold to the highest bidder for cash on March 4, 1905.

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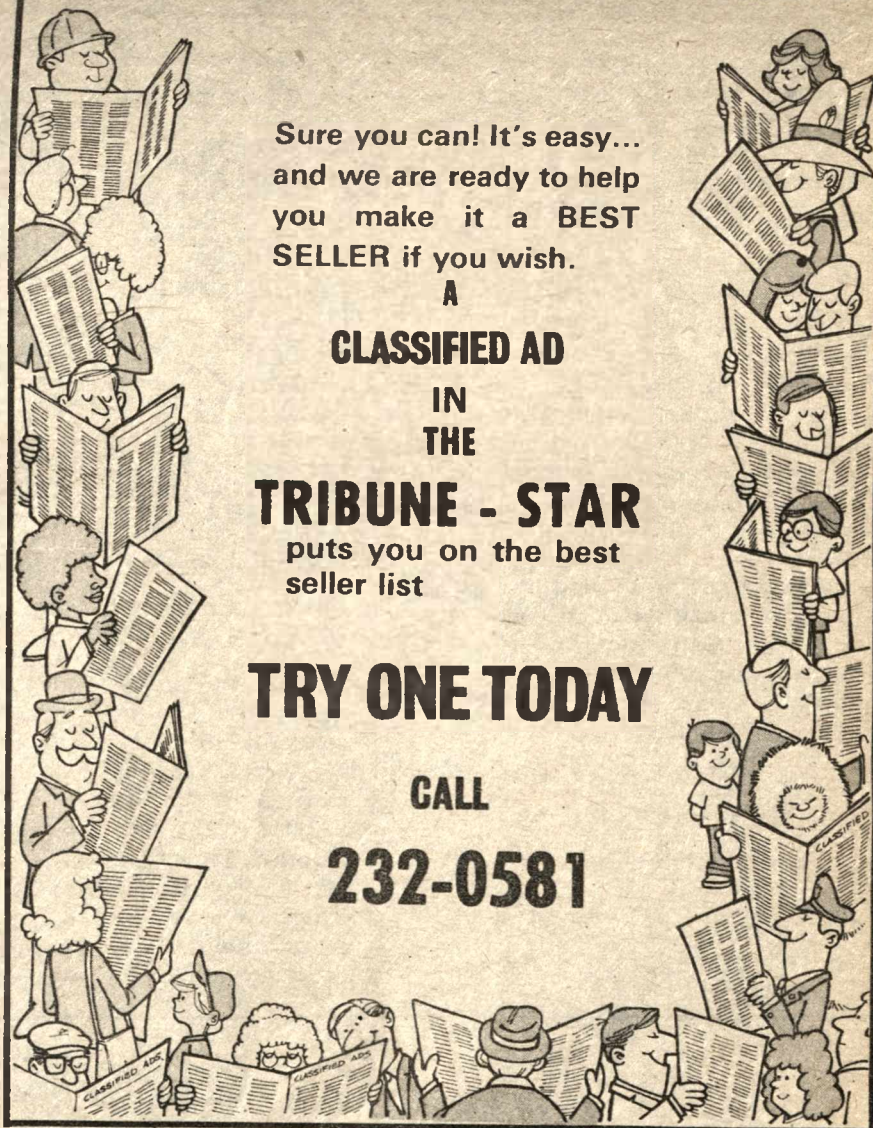
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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY...

By Josie

Q. I'd like to know why Sandy Hill was dropped from "Good Morning, America." Was it a clash of personalities between her and David Hartman? Is he really a tyrant? C. Stuebner, Sacramento, Calif.

A. The official explanation that ABC offered after Sandy was moved to the field from the co-anchor chair was that she was restless as Hartman's sidekick and wanted to explore new terrain as a special assignment reporter. That version, however, is coated with sugar. As a source at the network describes it, "She tried to make broads in public affairs subjects, which is really David's territory, and he just wouldn't budge. It's a patriarchal show. The patriarch is Hartman and he won't share the goodies." Also, says the on-the-spot observer, Hartman's a sexist who just doesn't like women. "You should have heard the fights he had with Nancy Dussault (Hill's 'GMA' predecessor)," our source explains, "But Nancy's a real lady, she wouldn't discuss it. Hartman and Sandy fought off-camera too — and it was so intense Sandy would discuss it." Regarding the subject of dictatorship, Hartman is no less than "a killer" according to the network person, which should answer your question. As for Sandy, her departure from ABC did have some rewards — she recently became a reporter for CBS Sports.



Q. Barbara Mandrell seems almost too sweet to be true. Is her image for real? J. Arnold, Hendersonville, Tenn.

A. It sure seems to be. People who've worked with her all say such nice things. And the details of her life seem to confirm it. No wayward teen-ager, she used to tell the boys she dated that her daddy was a cop so they'd be sure to bring her home nice and early. She married the drummer in the Mandrell family's musical act and 15 years later, the marriage is intact. The "Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters" series was the result of a family picture the girls had taken to give to their parents that then-NBC head Fred Silverman happened to see. And the night she won the Country Music Association "Entertainer of the Year" award, she was praying when her name was announced. All this adds up to one nice lady.



Q. Are famous people ever asked for identification? It seems that they would be able to breeze through most official details that we mere mortals have to face. J. Leonard, Wakefield, Mass.

A. You'd be surprised — sometimes even the most recognizable folks have to suffer such indignities. Danny Kaye, for example, was rushing through a Canadian airport recently on his way to a UNICEF benefit in Vancouver, when he was greeted warmly by name by the customs official. He was dumbfounded when the same official wouldn't let him pass until he'd located and flashed his passport. And Supreme Court Justice Sandra O'Connor found out that making the cover of Time and being the most talked-about woman of the year means nothing at the local supermarket. Trying to write a check at a Washington, D.C., food store, she was detained by the manager until she showed her check-cashing card.

Q. I recently saw the Rolling Stones in concert and realized that Mick Jagger dances a lot like Tina Turner. Is that intentional? B. Cox, Heightstown, N.J.

A. Not intentional, but not accidental either. It all goes back to Ike and Tina Turner's first English tour in the early '60s and the devout attention of one young fan. Or as Tina tells it, "I looked down at the side of the stage and there was this English kid at every show. Later on, he came backstage and said, 'I love the way you move; you've got to teach me how to dance.' So the Ikettes and I gave him some coaching and he certainly has used it well." The lad, of course, was Jagger and the rest, as they say, is rock 'n' roll history.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

Prairie House was built in 1838

T s JUN 6 1982

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Valley

The Prairie House was built in 1838 by Chauncey Rose on the corner of his farm on the outskirts of the little town of Terre Haute. Later renamed the Terre Haute House, the location became the northeast corner of Seventh and Wabash at the "Crossroads of the World."

It was opened by Theron Barnum of Baltimore who conducted it about three years, but in spite of the fact that it was a fine hotel, it was unprofitable, and in 1841 was closed. The carpets were rolled up and packed in ironbound boxes, and the linen and plate, etc. stored in rooms.

The Prairie House was finally opened in 1849 by T. C. Buntin, and began its remarkable history as a major hostelry where many famous men were entertained. At that time it was a four-story building with a flat, straight front.

Some of the best people in town boarded here. The D. S. Danaldsons and the Demas Demings lived there as bride and groom while their new homes were under construction.

The huge dining room was located on the Seventh Street side, and across the court were the rooms occupied by the Englishman, J. Richard Beste, and his family when their trip on the Wabash and Erie Canal was interrupted here because of illness. Up to this time Rose had never installed bells in the hotel because he did not believe in them. The very fussy and hard to please

Mr. Beste soon changed his mind when he swore like a trooper because of the lack of bells. Mr. Rose had them installed in all the rooms the next day.

No better account of the "table d'hôte" at the Prairie House can be found than the one written by Beste in June, 1851, while he and his wife and their 11 children were enjoying the hospitality of Mr. Buntin.

"Mr. Buntin, our fat landlord (at one time he weighed over 300 lbs.) dressed in the height of fashion, and with carving knife and fork in hand, politely guided us to our places, and then took his own stand at the side table which groaned under the profusion of well-cooked joints."

Usually there was one adult black waiter, assisted by 10 or 12 boys ranging in age from 12 to 15. All were dressed in white jackets, but without shoes or stockings. According to Beste they resembled school boys playing leapfrog rather than hotel waiters as they ran and tumbled around in their eagerness to serve. When the guests were seated, the waiter boys sprang to their side, shouting in their ears, "What will you take — mutton, beef, roast lamb, veal pie, chicken pie, roast fowl or pigeons?"

Up and down the long tables were sliced stacks of hot and cold breads including cornbreads, seed cakes and pancakes. Milk and butter were buried in large lumps of ice. Molasses, preserves and blackberry syrup were served in large soup tureens.

Beverages of tea, coffee, hot or cold chocolate and iced milk were served with either white or brown sugar. The vegetable choices were beans, hominy, potatoes, squash, Indian corn on the ear, and for dessert there were custard, cherry, squash, apple and blackberry pies, as well as stewed pears, roast apples, ice cream and watermelon.

One chambermaid made all the beds in the hotel and performed all the other room service as well. She, too, went about without shoes or stockings.

A daily inventory was taken to recover stolen goods. Each night a soiled waiter boy stuck his head in the room doors shouting: "Got any spoons?" If the count in the kitchen still did not tally, he often returned and insisted that the guests must have one or two and to look again.

From the windows of the Beste family rooms, they looked out on "a space of ground as yet unbuilt on, between the inn and the city limits, and which therefore was an airy, open grassy common." If Mr. Beste returned today he could marvel how the city progressed downtown in over 130 years to a parking lot on that grassy common.

Mr. Beste was charged \$5 a week for each grown person for board and lodging and attendance. The charge for a servant was half that, and 10 shillings, or \$2.50, was charged for a horse. He figured for about 20 shillings per week a man could be lodged and fed on the fat of the land in America. In this case,

Beste would notice a decided change in present day costs.

"Nearby were the home of Dr. Read and of some of the wealthier families," related Mr. Beste. "From the hotel to the town was a very disagreeable, hot walk in the sun, for it was not bordered by trees. At the end of it began the High Street of the town which was lined on each side with stores. There was a square on the left hand side where trees shaded the pavement all around from the boiling sun. On one side of this square was the other hotel of the town, Brown's House. It was considered to be more noisy and crowded than the Prairie House."

T. C. Buntin, the hotelkeeper, was born in Knox County in 1815, the son of Capt. Robert Buntin, an Irishman who settled in Vincennes in 1793 and became a noted citizen. His mother was the sister of Lord Baltimore.

After much roving, T. C. Buntin came to Terre Haute in 1847 and worked as a clerk for J. D. Early before reopening the Prairie House. In 1852 he went to the Buntin House, remaining there until he entered the Civil War in 1862 as quartermaster of the 14th Regiment and later Brigade Quartermaster on General Kimball's staff.

From 1868 to 1871 he was again proprietor of the Terre Haute House, and in his later years, 1878 until his death in 1892, was a banker and president of the Savings Bank.

Vigo County Public Library

Statue of Mercury towered above city Community Affairs File

Ts APR 15 1984

Clark, Dorothy Historical Museum (V.C.)

Flying high above downtown Terre Haute from its vantage point on top of the building at the northwest corner of Sixth and Wabash, the statue of Mercury, messenger of the gods according to Greek mythology, was a familiar landmark for over 80 years.

The McKeen Bank was built at that location in 1875, and it is supposed that one of the McKeens acquired the statues on a trip abroad and had it placed on the new edifice shortly after its completion. The Roman Mercury was the god of gain, of commerce, and of eloquence.

For more than 80 years, the statue braved the elements, withstanding the hot sun, snow, stormy winds and rain. It received an occasional coat of paint, one on top of the other, until a close examination revealed the scaling paint, bare patches exposing the original metal, requiring much careful use of the wire brush and blow torch by experts.

Until the statue was taken down and presented to the Vigo County Historical Society in 1958, when the upper two floors of the old building were removed in a remodeling project, it was always thought that the figure was a bronze casting, a copy of the famous original by Giovanni di Bologna.

It has been proven to be a copy of that famous work of sculpture placed in the garden of the Villa Medici, later the French Academy, in Bargello, Florence, Italy, but it is certainly not bronze.

It was found to be composed of zinc plates, and each plate was a separate casting. These plates were fitted and fused together by a process not fully understood today. It is said this method is a lost art, a process known only in Hungary and Italy, in which hydrochloric or muriatic acid was used as the flux in fusing the zinc plates together.

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark

Special to The Tribune-Star

To complete the history of Mercury, it is necessary to know where the castings were made and fitted together, and this points to the fact that it was made in Italy and imported from there.

Low temperature Eutectic welding was necessary to repair the badly damaged statue. Regular welding methods using intense heat would have melted it. The foot on which Mercury was balanced was broken off during the removal, and the base representing the "face of the wind" was broken in several places.

The time-consuming task of repair and restoration was completed by the late Harold Carson and Robert I. Clark of the historical society, Luther G. Stableton and Professor Eugene W. Clehouse of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The final coats of metal paint were applied, and Mercury was placed on public display again at the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley.

The sculptor of the original Mercury of Bargello, Giovannia di Bologna, was considered one of the best sculptors of the late Renaissance. His Mercury was his masterpiece. Known as Gio or Gian, he was also referred to as Juan of Donai, his birthplace in 1530. He died in 1608. Another source refers to the sculptor as Il Fiammingo.

The father wanted his son to be a notary, but the boy showed a talent

for sculpture and was placed with an artist named Beuch. From this master he went to Rome and later settled in Florence.

Influenced by his contemporary, Michelangelo, he excelled in the representation of abstract ideas and displayed great technical skill. Giovanni's chief work was in bronze, but he demonstrated his skill as well in marble in his group known as the "Rape of the Sabine" which graces the Loggia de Lanzi in Florence.

Other works of Giovanni include the Hercules and Nessus, a fountain; Venus coming from the bath; the equestrian statue of Cosmos I, and a representation of Victory. None of these has held the attention of the art world as has the winged Mercury. Copies are in several galleries and museums.

On the site of the original Mercury of Bargello stands a replica with its surface corroded to a bright green tint. Mercury displays all the attributes of the Greek as well as the Roman god in the winged feet, winged helmet, and the caduceus carried in his hand.

Obviously someone decided a copy of the statue would be a fitting embellishment for the tower of the new bank in Terre Haute. There is nothing in the bank records to show who actually purchased the statue. The bank was built by William Riley McKeen, but it was his son, Frank McKeen, who was the art collector. It is known he spent some time in Italy in 1875, and we can assume he saw the original Mercury, and was able to acquire a copy for the bank tower.

According to the records, Charles E. Eppinghausen was the architect of the McKeen Bank. He was born in 1840 in Florence, Italy, and returned to that city in 1876 to visit his uncle, Count Carlo Alberto Dell' Porto. Mercury was always a favorite of his when he visited the National Museum of Florence, and he ap-

proved of the copy being placed on the building he had designed.

Most Terre Hauteans gave little thought to the addition of fine sculpture to the new building. However, there was some criticism of a nude figure on public display. The story was told that a group of prominent matrons called on McKeen at the bank in protest of this immoral sight.

It was said that he walked out in front of the building, looked up and gazed at Mercury for some time and from several angles. Finally he said that if the ladies could see anything objectionable from that distance, their eyes were better than his, and walked back into the bank. His was the last word on the subject. The gossip was quieted by the statement that the figure was far enough above ground to avoid offending even the most sensitive.

McKeen's observation was found to be too true when the statue was placed on display in the museum. Busloads of giggling school children trying to see what there was to see caused Mercury to be placed securely on a heavy pedestal and turned at an angle that afforded him some privacy. He probably preferred the top of a three-story building without the matrons and peeping students.

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Vigo County Public Library

light on Valley

Early power company shed

1 OCT 21 1984

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The first electric lighting came to Terre Haute with the formation of the United States Electric Light and Power Co., which was incorporated Feb. 15, 1884.

The company started with \$30,000 — 600 shares at \$5 each. Its first directors were Andrew J. Crawford, Samuel McKeen, Edwin Ellis, Philip Schloss, Richard S. Tennant, Ray G. Jenckes and Robert Geddes.

All these men were well known Terre Haute citizens, but they knew virtually nothing about what they were investing in.

Crawford was a steel man, interested principally in rolling mills and blast furnaces. McKeen and Jenckes were millers. Schloss was a merchant tailor. Tennant was in the coal business. Only Ellis, whose father built and operated the Wabash Woolen Mills on South First Street, had any real mechanical skill.

It is not surprising that they hesitated for a time before starting construction on the new venture. They had a lot to learn.

The records show that some of the original members withdrew, and in place of Schloss and Jenckes, Herman Hulman, C. J. Hammerstein and James P. Crawford had joined the original members. They changed the name of the company to the Terre Haute Electric & Power Co.

Hulman was the head of the firm bearing his name, Hammerstein was in the queensware business

and Crawford was also in the rolling mills. Geddes was a partner in Havens & Geddes, dry goods and notions. The men still believed that \$30,000 would build an electric light plant.

The company acquired the former Bramble Lock Co. building on the west side of 6½ Street, where it intersected what is now the Pennsylvania Railroad. The necessary equipment was ordered and installed, and lines of wire extended into the business section and some outlying territory. On April 10, 1885, the first commercial electric lighting began.

These were the old style arc lights. Current formed an arc between two carbon rods separated enough to cause the arc to form the brightest light ever known to man. The lamps were connected in series; that is, a wire ran from one lamp to another and through each in turn until it completed the circuit.

While most of the lamps were in the downtown business district,

one was installed at the old Union Station on Chestnut and one was in front of the old City Hall and Market House at Fourth and Walnut Streets.

The first attempt to light the Terre Haute streets was with natural gas and gasoline. The success of the new arc lamps caused the city to bargain with the electric company for arc lamps to replace the gas lamps. The new system began operation Feb. 1, 1886. This also was series lighting with a minimal number of wires and poles.

Following the adoption of the incandescent light, it was found that a few hundred feet was the economical limit at 110 volts without adding copper to the line. An immense amount of copper was going to have to be used, more than 75 tons, in these feeder lines for the congested downtown area.

The old company, as it was known back in 1894, expended nearly all its capital in building its lines to reach downtown, and

Community Affairs File

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added money was needed to complete the system. Improvement was slow and only a flat rate was charged for the use of each lamp.

In those days there was no need for electricity until after dark. Then, the corner drug store and the saloon needed some illumination, along with the city streets when the moon was not shining.

Soon Russell B. Harrison, son of the former president of the United States, entered the picture with his electrified street railway system. Here was competition for the old company.

About the same time the arc light came into use, Hulman & Cox installed a small station in their engine room across the alley from their main building at Fifth and Wabash. A beautiful engine room with tile floors, shining brass work and the largest Corliss valve engine ever seen here was separated from the rest of the building by large plate glass windows.

Inside was the wonderful machine, a dynamo capable of

lighting 100 lamps at once, equal to a 10-kilowatt output. This crude direct current machine (alternating current had not been introduced) was a nine-day wonder then.

Insulated wire had not reached the rubber-coated stage. A wrapping of cotton thread over the wire was encased in a cotton braid and the whole saturated with parafine to make it partly waterproof. It was then laid in a shallow groove in the joists and covered with floor boards for mechanical protection. This proved satisfactory for the 15 years or so that the plant operated.

A one-light machine on top of the old Malt House of Anton Mayer at Ninth and Poplar threw its beams down on one of the first cement sidewalks in town. It was here the boys and girls enjoyed their rollerskating. The P. T. Barnum circus had several of the new lights in the big top — powered by a small steam engine and dynamo — when it showed here east of 14th and back of Gilbert's orchard.

oil in Terre Haute

The day they struck

Ts NOV 18 1984

Vigo County Public Library

Perhaps no event in Terre Haute's history excited the entire population as much as the evening of May 6, 1889, when oil was struck in the Diall Well.

The oil came with such force and volume it proved that the city was located over an oil basin and that an era of great prosperity had been reached.

The existence of oil and gas in this part of the state had been on the minds of many prospectors, but frequent attempts to prove this dream had discouraged investment in the ventures. The field was left largely to the impulse of the philanthropic citizens.

Chauncey Rose was the sole proprietor of the first well. His object was to secure soft water for the Prairie House, later the Terre Haute House, at the northeast corner of Seventh and Wabash. The well was located north of the hotel near an old sycamore tree. At that time no other buildings stood on the square except a carpenter shop on the northeast corner of Seventh and Cherry.

Under Norlin Thomas's supervision, the well-drilling was begun in 1865 using the crudest machinery. A light flow of dark oil was struck at the depth of 1,312 feet. Another vein of white oil was struck at 1,530 feet. Rose had no use for oil at the hotel. He found its

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

odor offensive and ordered the drilling continued.

Still hoping for soft water, a copious flow of sulphur water was struck and the drilling stopped at 1,785 feet. The old carpenter shop was converted into a bath house, and the flow of water was conducted through it and then on to the Wabash & Erie Canal.

The lot enclosing the well was fenced off, but water was piped where people came by the hundreds with jugs and cups for the much-desired mineral water, which was given freely without cost.

Large crowds would gather in the evenings to get their fill, but soon the novelty wore off. After a few people were overcome with gas

fumes in the bath house, Rose decided to plug the well.

It had cost him \$25,000 and the sulphur fumes had tarnished the silverware in the hotel, so he was done with the project.

But a company was formed to drill another well, backed by Chauncey Rose with Robert Cos as president. The hole was drilled in the old canal bed on the south line of Cherry Street. They struck oil at 1,600 feet, but the flow was so weak a pump was necessary.

Because there was so much water and the only means of separating the oil and water was to run them into tanks, then let the water settle and then draw off the oil at intervals, the result was unsatisfactory. The water and refuse were allowed to run along the old canal bed, an open ditch, to the river.

The stench was so terrible that Rose plugged the well. Some of the oil was sent to a Cleveland refinery but it did not get a favorable report. The remainder, several hundred barrels, was turned over to Collett, who used it as lubricating oil for the freight cars on the E., T.H. & C. Railroad.

The next try was the well on the river bank between Walnut and Poplar streets, known as the Conant Well. Operations began in 1868 by 12 stockholders who hoped to

find either oil or salt water. The well cost about \$15,000 and brought up an inexhaustible stream of the same sulphur water found in the previous wells. It also brought up a great deal of natural gas. The company sold the well to Delano, and after his death it became a bath house.

The fourth well, the deepest, was put down by the Terre Haute Fuel Gas Co., an organization formed by the Terre Haute Gaslight Co.

They believed the strong emission of gas from the Conant Well could have been handled more carefully by casing the upper streams of water. At any rate, natural gas or oil would be of great value to the gas company, so this well was located near the river bank just south of Swan Street.

Drilling began in 1886 by J. W. Chruchill, contractor. He put down an unusually large diameter drive pipe with two gangs of men using the most modern machinery. Frequent accidents caused special tools to be ordered from Pennsylvania.

Streams of water were encountered every few hundred feet, making it necessary to drill below the vein, pull up the old casing, ream out the bore down to the bottom and re-case, all to maintain a dry hole for gas.

When the drill was below 1,600

feet, a stream of water was found under such great pressure it collapsed the heavy casing. Extra heavy casing was used to replace that in the well, and the drilling continued down to 2,960 feet, the deepest well in this part of the state, when the work was discontinued. The cost of the well was \$14,800.

Investors were not eager to continue explorations when the cost of the four wells totaled \$75,000 without good results. The leading spirit for the fifth well was M. N. Diall, who formed the Terre Haute Natural Gas and Oil Co. in 1889. There were 29 stockholders.

This new well was located east of the old canal and back of the Phoenix Foundry, a little south of Eagle Street, on land leased from the Vandalia Railroad. Churchill got the drilling contract, and struck oil at about 8 p.m. May 6, 1889.

No one expected results so soon, so adequate preparations had not been made. It was dark, and because of the great danger of fire, no artificial light was used. The workmen did not know what to do when the tools were pulled and oil shot upwards nearly to the top of the derrick.

After the first force was over, the flow continued all night so strong

it was reported the full diameter of the casing. The entire police force was called out to establish a cordon around the area. The use of lights or smoking or anything that could lead to a fire was strictly forbidden. A lake of oil flooded the ground around the well, and spread into two adjacent lumber yards.

As soon as possible, a basin was excavated so the oil could drain until arrangements could be made for pumping it into tanks. Empty tank cars on the railroad tracks were commandeered in the emergency, along with all the oil barrels in the city. Two more carloads of barrels were purchased from the C. & E.I. at Danville.

On May 8, stockholders authorized the president to lay a pipeline from the well, along the Vandalia right-of-way, to the gravel pit with McKeen's consent, and to buy two 1,200-gallon and one 250-barrel tank for storing the oil. These were wooden tanks, of course.

The flow of oil continued from the 1,615 foot depth, and more tanks were necessary.

The news went out on the wire, and people came from far and wide to see, some to invest. Big news of 1889!

Remember Hoff's Grocery?

When I see the notices on the doors of present day supermarkets about non-admittance of those with no shirt or shoes and positively no pets, I can't help but be reminded of Hoff's grocery.

Terre Haute lost another of its landmarks when the Hoff grocery, northeast corner of 13th and Wabash, was razed about 25 years ago. Built in 1876 by Frederick W. Hoff to replace an earlier frame building, the old grocery retained its old-time scales, coffee-grinder, pickle barrel, crackerbarrel and other open containers for customers to feel, squeeze, heft and generally maul the merchandise before buying or not.

Two or more shaggy cats slept on the counters, shelves or wherever they wanted. Tidbits of lunchmeats and cheese cut from the huge wheel on the counter kept them well paid for their night duty as mousers.

Like so many of the German-born citizens of Terre Haute, the Hoff family contributed much to the growth and economy of the community. Frederick was born in 1836 in the province of Hesse-Nassau, Germany, the son of John Christian and Anna Catherine (Shaley) Hoff who emigrated to America in 1847 and settled first at Troy, county seat of Lincoln County, Mo., with an uncle and a cousin, John Frederick Hoff.

In the winter of 1848, the two families left Troy and went to St. Louis, where the women and children waited while the two men walked all the way to Bowling Green, then the county seat of Clay County, Ind. They traveled the unfinished National Road before the first railroad was established.

Neither of the Hoff's, John Christian or John Frederick, could speak English, but they got along. At Bowling Green they found a large settlement of Germans who had been there for eight to 10 years.

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

They knew some people there. John C. Hoff purchased 40 acres in Clay County. They had looked over Terre Haute, but the low land and the many streams and swamps at that time made them decide against the prairie land. Terre Haute had a population of 5,000, and the city bordered along the river.

In the spring of 1848, the two Hoff's returned to St. Louis. They loaded up their families and took passage on a steamboat down the Mississippi River, up the Ohio to the Wabash and upriver to Terre Haute. Here they were taken to the home of Fred Bellert, a brewer.

Mrs. Hoff's sister, Christena Shaley, had traveled from Germany with the family. She later married Alex Bolsanis, a pioneer brickmaker of Terre Haute.

From Terre Haute the Hoff's were taken in wagons to Clay County where they lived until 1866 when they sold their farm and came to Terre Haute to buy two small places on 25th and 29th streets.

John C. Hoff died in 1876, his wife in 1896. Their children included Frederick W.; Caroline, who married William Dunner; Minnie, who married Huldrich Froeb, a grocer at 15th and Main streets;

William H.; and Henry Hoff.

Young Frederick had attended school in Germany for four years. Because there were no schools in Clay County when they arrived, he was sent to Terre Haute to live with his aunt and attend school to learn English during the winter. In 1850 he enrolled in Mr. Spencer's school in the basement of the Universalist Church at the southeast corner of Fourth and Ohio streets.

Three years later Frederick was allowed to leave the farm and live in town if he would return each year to help with the harvest until he was 25 years old. Working as a clerk in the grocery of his uncle, F. W. Shaley, he purchased the business 10 years later.

In 1863 he enlisted in Company I, 76th Indiana Regiment, for Morgan's Raid, and in May 1864, served 100 days in Company I, 133rd Indiana Regiment, receiving his discharge in September.

Following his army service, Hoff opened his own grocery in 1865 at 13th and Wabash. In 1870 he built a brick residence at 1307 Main, and in 1876 built a new brick store building.

Hoff also was engaged in pork packing, farming and a feed business. A member of Morton Post No. 1, G.A.R., he served as an official for more than 30 years of the German Reformed Church.

In 1867 Frederick Hoff married Mary D. Shaley, a native of the same locality in Germany. He had come alone to America in 1863. Their children were Emma Katherine, born 1868, who married George Baesler, meat dealer at 14th and Main; William H., born 1876, grocer; F. W. Jr., 1878, carpenter; Clara Ellen, 1880, local school teacher who later married Leonard Croft; Albert J., 1882; and Otto Herman, 1885, whose twin brother died young.

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Grand old store ranged from clothing

Clark, Dorothy J.
Ts NOV 30 1986

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

new store at Henderson.

His career had its ups and downs, but his association with L. Brown put him in the speciality clothing line. There were more profits and losses, and he lost his shirt in one of the deals.

Feibelman went to Monroe, La., where he traveled for Myer Brothers, wholesale and retail drygoods, to all the small towns of the state in a horse and buggy. On the side he made money dealing in furs and hides. In 1906 he took a five-month trip to Germany, bringing his younger brother, Fred, back with him. He became a traveling salesman for S. & J. Katz in Monroe.

Meanwhile, his former associate, Louis Brown, located in Terre Haute and sent for Feibelman to join him in August 1907. He spent the winter in business at Dana and the following spring opened a store at Jasonville, in partnership with Brown. The next year they opened a store at Clinton. Both stores were successful.

Feibelman took charge of the Clinton store, and after two years

sold out his interest to Brown. He bought an interest with Julius Lederer, who had just bought out his former partner, Strauss of Strauss-Lederer Co.

In 1911 Feibelman owned a one-third interest in Lederer-Feibelman in Terre Haute. Two years later he acquired one-half interest, with branches at Newman and Mitchell. The next year they opened stores at Clinton and Brazil. Fred Feibelman operated the Clinton store. Gus Loeb, Lederer's brother-in-law, managed the other branch. All three stores were successful.

Three days after Christmas in 1920 the Wabash Avenue store burned down. Fifteen days later they were back in business in a garage building on Ohio Street. In spite of handicaps, the company thrived until the new five-story building on Wabash Avenue was opened Dec. 3, 1921.

The Depression years were difficult, but the firm kept going and was incorporated as Lederer-Feibelman, with Lederer as president and Feibelman as vice presi-

In the 1920s one of the nicest stores in downtown Terre Haute was that of Lederer-Feibelman. Many people still remember it and speak nostalgically about it when conversation turns to the dying inner city.

Eugene Feibelman was a self-made man, born in Rulzheim, Bavaria, Germany, in 1874, one of nine children of Joseph IV and Caroline Feibelman. Four of the sons emigrated to Indiana.

Eugene served an apprenticeship in a retail drygoods store in Karlsruhe Baden, Germany, at the age of 14. He served three years without pay, receiving only a small bonus his second and third years, which hardly paid his board.

Next he became a traveling salesman in the Black Forest territory, the Swiss border and the Rhine section. Then he traveled for a tailoring business of Rorshack, Switzerland.

At the age of 18 he came to the United States, landing in New York on April 20, 1893, with his total savings, 100 goldmarks. He went to Louisville, Ky., where an

uncle was living, but due to the Panic and hard times, was forced to take a job as wrapping boy in the Herman-Strauss Department Store.

In the fall he took a job paying \$2 more a week in a country store at Lancaster, Ky., and later at Winchester, Ky. His salary was \$5 a week and he was promoted to the Louisville store. The company owned 12 stores and he was made traveling manager at \$50 a month and soon was made manager of the

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dent. Other stockholders were Sam Strauch, Fred Feibelman, Gus Loeb, Essie Swanagan and Rose Butler.

Paid up capital amounted to \$205,000. On June 24, 1922, Lederer severed his active connection with the firm, and Feibelman became president. Also in 1922, Miss Butler retired and Adolph Feibelman, formerly of Eudora, Ark., came into the firm as an active and equal stockholder. At that time the store was considered to be the most modern in Terre Haute.

The new store opened 65 years ago in the west half of the newly completed Fairbanks Building. They offered lunch in the rear balcony cafeteria, a plate lunch for 25 cents, short orders and fountain service. The menu offered chicken fricasee, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, bread and butter, all for a quarter.

The front balcony contained the optical department and the restrooms. In the basement,

women could find "large and roomy, striped outing flannel nightgowns for 59 cents, along with sateen petticoats, middy blouses and tams."

The opening-day sale ad stated that there was "no music, no souvenirs, only bargains that shout." The fourth floor was devoted to the Del Monte canned goods sale. An entire carload of the California products were sold to women only and in limited quantities. Women could buy six cans of fruit, apple butter or preserves for 19 cents in No. 2½ cans. No. 2 cans of corn, peas and tomatoes sold for 10 cents each. If that didn't bring in the Wabash Valley housewives, nothing would.

The drygoods department offered sales of cloth of all kinds. Sheets were 69 cents each. The bargain basement was filled with bargains including "bust confiners" for 25 cents each. Men could buy silk shirts. Women bought lace collars, lots of veiling and fur chokers and scarves.

What a grand opening in downtown Terre Haute!

Stewart House downtown favorite

Ts JAN 18 1987

Clark, Dorothy (f)

Bob Stewart Family

In 1819 Matthew Stewart and his wife, Elizabeth, were living in Louisville, Ky. Their first child, William H., was born that year. They came to Parke County, Ind., in 1826, and then to Terre Haute before 1829.

Matthew built the Stewart House, an inn or hotel on Second Street, a half block north of Main Street. This location was then In-Lot No. 174 of the Original Town. The wooden building burned to the ground in 1841, but was soon replaced with a much larger hotel of handmade bricks.

Mrs. Stewart was an excellent cook and housekeeper and her fame spread far and wide. Travelers looked forward to a comfortable stay at the Stewart House while they enjoyed her delicious meals.

Following Stewart's death in 1845, his widow and oldest son, William H., continued to run the Stewart House for several years. She sent three sons to the Civil War, and they all became officers. William H. served as a brevet colonel. Robert R. Stewart had enlisted in Capt. Philip Kearney's cavalry company raised in Terre Haute for the Mexican War. He had traveled to California during the Gold Rush and was back home by 1858.

Early in 1861 he became captain of an independent cavalry group recruited in Terre Haute, Company I, First Cavalry, Twenty-Eighth Regiment. Next he was lieutenant colonel of the Second Cavalry, and then colonel of the Eleventh Cavalry.

James W. Stewart succeeded his brother Robert as colonel of the Second Cavalry.

Col. Robert R. Stewart's art glass portrait is one of the nine in the skylight dome of Memorial Hall on Ohio Street.

His outfit left Indianapolis in July 1861 to

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escort Gen. Rosecrans in western Virginia. Then it was assigned to this duty under Gen. Fremont, and then to Gen. Sigel on the Potomac.

This command was in the battle of Strasburg, in the skirmishing that ended in the battle of Cross Keys, at Cedar Mountain with Pope's army and Manassas, and alone made the charge, crossing the river at Fredericksburg.

Stewart and his men were on escort duty with Gen. Howard and at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, then to the Lower Potomac, joining the main army at the White House, where they remained until June 1864 and were mustered out.

The letters Col. Robert wrote to his brother William H. were preserved by the family. One letter, written Aug. 18, 1861, postmarked Sept. 9 in Clarksburg, Va., tells how "we have constantly been in the saddle ever since we have invaded the 'Sacred Soil of Virginia.' The boys appear to be fine, notwithstanding the hardship they have to

endure.

"We have caught several rebels and had one or two skirmishes but no body hurt," he wrote, "but you may look for something exciting in a few days from the western part of Virginia as Gen. Lee is on his way here with a large force under him to drive the damd abolitionists from their soil. They call all of the Northern Troops that.

"When I was out on a scout the other day," Stewart wrote, "I stopped at a strong secessionist's house and I never got such a tongue-lashing in my life as the woman of the house gave me. She called me a damd Abolitionist, a northern thief and Abe Lincoln's dog! They call this Abe Lincoln's war and say that we will all be murdered before we leave Virginia.

"To give you a pretty good idea about the class of people that are in favor of secession, out of about 100 that I have administered the Oath of Allegiance to, about two-thirds of them cannot write their own names."

Stewart promised, "Even if Gen. Lee does come, we will give him the warmest reception that he ever got. It will be warmer than the Battle of Molino Del Rey where he and I fought side by side.

"My company has been accepted by Gen. Rosecrans as a Body Guard," Stewart boasted, "which is quite a compliment taking in consideration the number of companies he has under his command ..."

In June 1862, Lt. Col. R. R. Stewart, wrote to his brother from Reynold's Station near Pulaski, Tenn. "We are stationed at the above place and I think it will be a permanent thing for two or three months. We have 40 miles of railroad to guard, and I am in need of some articles very much, and as there is no prospect of me getting a leave of

absence, I thought I would give you a list and let you purchase them for me and have them expressed by Adams to this place.

"The first is my trunk. Have all of the papers and things that will be of no use to me taken out and put away until I return. Go to Hartsock and tell him I want one-half dozen fine shirts, the same as I bought before with four-ounce collars; one dozen cotton socks, good and white; one-half dozen fine drawers; one-half dozen fine white handkerchiefs; one pair boots, thin and fine, the same as J's got but lighter; one-half dozen small Sunday cravats; one dozen kid gloves size 7 1/8 (you will find them at Edsalls & McDougalls); and send some fine soap and perfumery and such other things as you think I shall need and have them packed in my trunk and directed here ...

"I have \$500 I will send to Mother as soon as I get a good opportunity, and the Government owes me \$400 more I will send soon."

In spite of the above want list, which sounds more like a social life instead of a battlefield, Stewart wrote more war news. "I suppose you have heard of the Charge I made at Corinth with 150 men. Well, I made it, but after I found that I was mistaken as they had a much larger force than I anticipated ... Gen. Buell gave me a very nice compliment. I lost six men killed and wounded ... the bridge that we charged through was on fire at the time ..."

"Bob" Stewart was a popular man both in camp and as a civilian. His dashing bravery and military exploits were well known.

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Take tour of Stewart House

JS JAN 20 1987

Old family letters postmarked Belfast, Ireland, addressed to *Matthew Stewart, Innkeeper, Terra heuite, Vigo County, Indiana, America*, reveal that he left several brothers and sisters in the old country when he emigrated to America.

A letter written by his sister, Mary Ann Stewart Gorham, mentions another sister, Sarah, and brothers, Robert, William and John, living in Ireland, another brother, James, in Scotland and a brother, Thomas, in England.

The Stewart parents must have died before 1848 when the letter was written. The family names were carried on by Matthew and Elizabeth Stewart, calling their first son, William, in 1819; daughter, Mary Jane, 1821; James W., 1823; Thomas S., 1825, d. 1828; Robert Reed, 1827; Wallace Ray, 1830; and Joseph E., 1832.

In spite of her active family, Mrs. Stewart ran the hotel, serving as landlady, cook, laundress, etc., of the Stewart House.

After her husband's death, an inventory was taken for his estate on July 9, 1847. His executors must have spent hours going from room to room in the hotel and figuring out the value of each item listed, down to the chamber pot under each bed.

There was a wealth of cherry and walnut furniture. In the parlor was one gilt-frame looking glass listed at \$20 (mirrors were difficult to freight in from the East in those days); a sofa, \$40; center table and cover, \$35; two card tables, \$40; four cane-bottom chairs, \$8; arm rocking chair, \$4; two lard lamps, \$8; two glass lamps, \$1; a pair of snuffers for candles, \$2; and two pitchers, \$3.

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

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Also, there were two mantle vases, 75 cents each; one glass globe, \$1; two glass pitchers, \$2.50; one glass candle shield, \$2.50; 37 yards of carpet, \$14.80; one piece of oil cloth, \$2.50; two double window curtains, \$12; one picture with frame, \$10; one fancy chair, \$1.50; and two small pictures with frames, \$2.

Tobacco chewers and snuff dip-pers were well provided for by the hotel with at least one "spitt box" in every room and more in the public rooms. They were never called spittoons, and were listed at 50 cents each.

There was no central heating in 1847. All hotel rooms were heated by fireplaces. A large bedroom accommodating several male travelers contained a Franklin stove in addition to the fireplace.

The kitchen had a large wood-burning cookstove. The wash-house where laundry was done had stoves upon which to heat water for the guests to use in their wash bowls and pitchers. Not a single bath tub was listed, just washtubs for bathing because there was no indoor plumbing.

Several hired girls with strong backs and tireless legs were required to fetch and carry up and down stairs, taking care of guests' needs.

In the dining room of the Stewart House were a sideboard, card table,

four fancy chairs, a large dining table with a pair of end tables to lengthen it, four common dining tables, a large six-leg table, 38 chairs, gilt-frame looking glass, large cherry sideboard, one poplar sideboard, cherry sofa, five waiters (wheeled carts), 120 yards of carpeting, six brass candlesticks and a hand bell.

A typical hotel room contained a single or double bed, wash stand with pitcher and bowl, roller towel, a chair and a small piece of carpet. More luxurious rooms provided small looking glasses, candlestand, pictures on the walls, more carpet and possibly small Franklin stoves for extra heat. The china chamber pot and slop jar were standard.

Each room contained several comforts and extra bedding. Inevitably the fire in the fireplace would either go out or die down to the no-heat stage before morning. The horse in the stable was probably as warm as his owner in the chilly bedroom.

Over the years the Stewart House entertained the famous and the infamous, the rich and the poor, people from all walks of life. On June 14, 1842, former President of the United States Martin Van Buren was entertained there.

Escorted into town by a procession of horsemen and bug-gies and carriages filled with dignitaries, the honored guest was greeted by some 15 to 20 gun salutes before his speech from a raised platform. During the ceremony and reception, Van Buren stood in an open brougham by the side of the stand, with James Whitcomb holding an umbrella over his head.

Van Buren was described as having a graceful manner and a clear, distinct, low voice. From there, the procession went directly to Stewart's Hotel. During the evening, Van Buren was visited by his political friends in the area. After all, he was here to scare up votes for Henry Clay in his race against James K. Polk. The next morning he left Terre Haute on the Western stage for Springfield, Ill., accompanied by some of his local friends.

Polk was elected in 1844. Clay was defeated by New York's electoral votes going Democratic through the efforts of the Liberty Party and its anti-slavery platform. Had Clay received New York's votes he would have been elected. Polk was the first example of a "dark horse" candidate for president.

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Clark House boarders ran the gamut

T 8 MAR 13 1988

One of the oldest buildings in Terre Haute was torn down in October 1889. In spite of its many owners and tenants over the years, the old structure was always known as the Clark House. It stood at the northwest corner of First and Ohio streets, where the City Hall parking lot is now.

The property, including all the buildings and 150-foot frontage on First Street, was sold for \$3,500 to R.P. Davis, proprietor of the Early House and a well-to-do stockyard man.

The new owner ordered all of the frame buildings to be demolished, so nothing remained of the original except the narrow brick portion built long after the old frame structures had gained a reputation as a hospitable hotel.

The workmen, perspiration dripping from their faces, agreed that it was a mighty hard building to pull down. Like all of the pioneer buildings, it was framed together to stay forever. In those days walnut was as plentiful as sugar maples, and it was used unsparingly in construction.

Although later generations knew the hotel as Mayers' Home, all the older generations were so accustomed to calling it the Clark House that they couldn't change the habit.

The original frame building that was "so tarnation hard to tear down," was built in 1819 by Judge Demas Deming, father of Demas and Henry Deming. Mrs. Warren

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told how her father lived in a little house across the street in 1816, and she recalled the early history of the house.

For a time, Mrs. Morris kept a fashionable boarding house there, and Judge Deming boarded there before and after his marriage. Their son Demas was born there. In 1842, Judge Deming moved to South Sixth Street, where Mrs. Deming still lived in 1889. Dr. Hitchcock made his home in what afterwards became the Clark House.

In 1845 or 1846, J.S. Clark bought the building and later made the brick addition. T.C. Buntin, who was the proprietor of the Buntin House, told that "it was well built and the front entrance is attractive yet."

In those days, the Terre Haute House (former Prairie House) and the Buntin House were the high-

priced hotels. The Clark House ran third.

In addition to the narrow brick addition, an extensive frame building in the rear housed the many leading people who stopped there in the early days. It was here that Judge Huntington and his bride stayed. The first child of the Rev. Jewett and his wife died there.

The ferry at the foot of Ohio Street, and later the first covered bridge across the Wabash River, made this a prominent location. Judge Deming ran a store and traded with the Indians at this corner. His books showed that whiskey sold for 30 cents a gallon and nails at 40 cents a pound.

In 1860 Clark turned over the hotel to George Butz, who ran it during the Civil War. George and his father, Jacob Butz, came from a family of tavern keepers in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

It was Christmas Day, 1856, when Jacob Butz leased the Paris Hotel in Paris, Ill. In March 1859, he moved to Clinton and leased the Barrick House for a year before moving to Terre Haute and leasing the Clark House until he bought it at a sheriff's sale. He ran it until April 1865, when he moved his family to his farm on Section 25.

But two years later he was back in the hotel business when he and his son leased the National House and bought all of its furnishings. George died there in 1871. The next year Jacob returned and died on his farm in 1878, survived by his

widow, Catharine, his daughter, Cornelia, and two sons, Joseph and Reuben.

Following the Civil War, the Clark House passed through other hands and ceased being a well-kept hotel. It was still regarded as good property when Mr. and Mrs. Mayers bought it. They had kept a small hotel on Fourth Street, but needed room to expand. They changed the name to the Mayers' Home.

Before they took over the hotel, it had become run-down. Some of its inmates were "hard characters" and the police often made arrests there. Mrs. Mayers refused \$9,000 for the property shortly after the sale, but it continued to deteriorate and was finally sold for \$3,500.

The last owner, R.P. Davis, also came from a hotel-keeping family. He was born in 1844 in Harrison County, Ind., the son of J.M. Davis, a farmer and hotel-keeper, and his wife, Mary Ackron.

Davis had enlisted in the Civil War in 1861 and served until its close. He was with Gen. Sherman on the famous march to the sea. He had come to Terre Haute to learn the iron-molder's trade which he followed for 11 years. In 1877 he decided to go back in the hotel business as proprietor of the Early House.

From 1819 to 1889, the Clark House served travelers and early residents. Davis' cattle stalls and stockyards used the premises after the Clark House was torn down.

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Heinl business dream flowered with Terre Haute greenhouse

1 S MAY 22 1988

Terre Haute's pioneer florist, John G. Heinl, was born in 1844 in Boden, near Carlsbad, Austria, the son of Anton and Marie Annie (Grادل) Heinl. Ten years later the family came to America in a sailing ship, a journey which took 80 days. Two years later, 1856, the family settled in Toledo, Ohio.

Twelve-year-old Heinl, a strong boy, worked in a brickyard hauling sand in a wheelbarrow for \$8 a month. Later he was employed by a gardening company and received a glowing recommendation from them in 1861.

During the six years he worked for the firm he learned all branches of gardening. They reported "he has the greatest love for his business. He is honest, industrious and temperate."

Heinl came to Terre Haute in 1863 with his three brothers, Joseph, Lawrence and George. All four Heinls became well known among florists nationwide.

For a brief time Heinl attended Whitewater College at Centerville, working for his tuition while attending school. He also was employed at the Rose Hill Nurseries at Richmond. With all of this experience the Heinls established one of the first greenhouses in Terre Haute at 15th Street and Washington Avenue.

Everyone was familiar with Floral Hall, his next location at Eighth and Cherry streets, later

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the site of the traction station, and later the bus depot loading area which is now a parking lot.

Heinl's gardens and hot houses were known as No. 19-29 N. Eighth St., where he occupied a 140-foot square and grew some of the finest and choicest plants and cut flowers. In addition to this location, Heinl had a 40-acre nursery and fruit farm located about 3½ miles southeast of the city. This was also used for gardening, growing plants and smaller varieties of nursery stock.

The firm of J.G. Heinl & Son was formed in 1895, and in 1901 the senior member retired, leaving his elder son, Frederick G. Heinl, to carry on the business he had established.

The florist shop at the northwest corner of Seventh and Walnut streets is still conducted under the

old firm name. Heinl was a pioneer member of the Society of American Florists. The membership was continued by his son, and then by William Becker until his death, and now by his widow, Bertha Becker. The Beckers came to work at Heinl's in 1925, and bought the business in 1955, keeping the founder's name.

Marie Heinl Fowler is the granddaughter of John G. and daughter of Frederick. She lives in Indianapolis to be near her two daughters.

John G. Heinl married in 1870 Mary Marguerite Debs, the daughter of Jean Daniel Debs and a sister of Eugene V. Debs. Of their five children, two sons, Frederick and Robert, lived to maturity. Robert was a well-known journalist on the editorial staff of the New York Sun.

In 1873 Heinl was appointed by Indiana Gov. Thomas A. Hendricks as assistant commissioner of Indiana to the Vienna Exposition. Three years later at Vienna he was credited with discovering a new variety of pelargonium.

In 1895 he brought from Paris, France, for the first distribution in the United States the well-known single violet "Princess of Wales." The following year he engaged in forcing lilacs on a large scale, importing from France enough plants for a five-acre tract. Many of these lilacs were shipped weekly to

Chicago and St. Louis. When Davis Garden was laid out, residents of that area recalled Lilac Avenue which was planted with 2,000 of Heinl's 5- to 10-year-old plants. He also built the greenhouse of the former Cowan Brothers at 21st and Spruce streets.

In 1874 Heinl was elected as a member of the City Council from the old 2nd Ward. Later, with Adolph Herz, he served on the Park Board.

Following his retirement from active business life, Heinl devoted his time to charitable and philanthropic endeavors. He served as president of the Rose Dispensary, vice president of the Rose Orphan Home, the first president of Terre Haute Morris Plan Bank, president and organizer of Fort Harrison Savings Association, vice president of Davis Gardens, director of Indiana Savings Loan and Building Association, and a director of the Terre Haute Water Works.

At his death in 1920, expressions of sympathy and tribute paid to his long and useful life all referred to his great love of flowers. People remembered he always wore a fresh flower in his button-hole — a violet, lily-of-the-valley, or maybe even a geranium leaf.

People remembered that he was never too busy to discuss with anyone how to grow bigger and better plants or flowers.

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Today's MNB building was first of its kind in Terre Haute in 1908

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Significant in Terre Haute's history was the steel and concrete building at the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue. The first of its size and type to be erected in the city in 1907-08, it marked the beginning of the development of the downtown area.

As the home of the Terre Haute Trust Co., one of the top banking institutions in Terre Haute, it drew hundreds of top people daily to the busy downtown intersection.

I.H.C. Royse, president, was the one person credited with the vision and planning for this important building, greater than any other in town.

Previously located in smaller quarters in an old building at the northeast corner of Sixth and Ohio streets, the bank felt the need for a new building in 1905. Led by Royse, officials of the institution began their plans for erecting a building greater than any Terre Haute had known.

The 140- by 50-foot lot at Seventh and Wabash was purchased for \$90,000. The old two-



Much the same: This photo shows the building at Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue as it was in the 1940s.

story brick structure housing a wholesale whiskey business and Baur's Drug Store was demolished beginning Sept. 1, 1907.

A year later, in October 1908, the new building was completed. It stood eight stories high, contained 125 rooms, and was easily years ahead of every other local structure. Fireproof throughout, it caused other property owners to have buildings which would not burn easily.

The building itself cost \$205,000 and furnishings cost \$30,000, making a total cost for the land and completed building \$325,000. This sum exceeded by far the cost of any other Terre Haute building.

Not only did the new quarters bring value to Terre Haute, they brought value to the T.H. Trust Co. as well. The capital increased from \$350,000 to \$500,000 from 1908 to 1920. The deposits increased from \$4,760,000 to \$6,750,000 during the same time period.

The spacious and desirable offices created a demand for better offices than were afforded in other buildings. The bank moved in, occupying part of the first floor and the basement. Baur's retained the east side of the first floor. This area later became the Christmas savings section of the bank.

Within six months after completion, the offices were 70-percent occupied, but never fully occupied until 1917. The bank was compelled to increase room rents from \$1.25 to \$1.80 per square foot.

Officials of the bank at the time of the erection of the new building were I.H.C. Royse, president; and J.S. Royse, vice president and secretary. In 1921, they were J.S. Royse, president; W.E. Rahel, vice president; R.H. Rhyan, secretary; and F.J. Terhorst, Frank Hanisch and A.J. Woolford, assistant secretaries.

Between 1908 and 1920, buildings of the same quality and approximate size were erected in downtown Terre Haute. They included The Tribune Building, Liberty Theater, the Masonic Temple, Hippodrome Theater, Hotel Deming, State Normal Library and Science buildings, Terre Haute Savings Bank, The Star Building, Indiana Theater, Citizen's Trust Co., and the Fairbanks Building.

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Merchants banked on book ads

In the Gay '90s it was considered good advertising to hand out little booklets of ready information. On my desk is such a publication printed by "Moore & Langen, Printers & Binders, Terre Haute, Ind."

It was "presented with the compliments of E. Kafader, 941 Lafayette Ave., dealer in staple & fancy groceries, domestic & foreign cheese a speciality, wines, liquors, cigars & tobacco — fine summer garden in connection." This message was repeated on the back cover of the 35-page booklet.

W.M. Donnelly & Co., druggists, southwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets, dealers in drugs, medicines, chemicals, toilet soaps, brushes, combs, etc., perfumeries, and fancy toilet articles, paints, oils and varnishes, physicians' prescriptions accurately compounded day or night — all this was on the inside front cover.

Opposite this advertisement was a tiny map of the city from the river east to 25th Street, and from Maple Avenue south to Voorhees. The route of the Vandalia Railroad was shown through the city.

Two pages listed the population and county seats of all the counties in Indiana at that time. Terre Haute had 30,287 people.

Herman Mewes, proprietor of Delmonico Restaurant, 639 Main St., offered a sample room and regular dinners from noon to 2 p.m. A. Owens, marble and granite monuments and general cemetery work, ornamental carving a speciality, was located at 109 S. Fourth St., near the Market House. They offered 5 percent discount on all orders coming through the advertisement. Customers were asked to bring in this booklet for proof.

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to *The Tribune-Star*

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

Four pages were devoted to railroad timetables — Vandalia Line (both Terre Haute & Indianapolis and Terre Haute & Louisville divisions), the Evansville & Terre Haute — Nashville Line and Evansville & Indianapolis, the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Line, Danville Line, the Terre Haute & Peoria, and the Big Four Route — CCC & St. L.

Myers Brothers, southwest corner of Fourth and Main, leading one-price clothiers and gents' furnishers, were advertising boys' and children's clothing. Henry Becker, bottler of soda water, ginger ale and carbonated beverages, was located at the southwest corner of Eighth and Cherry streets.

Tony Dehner, agent for Indianapolis Brewing Co., brewers of famous beers, champagne, Erlanger, Wiener, lager and Pilsener Special, was at the corner of Eighth and the Van Railroad here.

A photo of a man with a full head of hair, sideburns and a luxuriant mustache accompanied the ad for Carney's Capiline, the vegetable

hair vigor, the only restorative that contained no sugar of lead, lac sulphur or other poisonous ingredients. It restored hair to its natural dark color, didn't discolor scalp or skin, and prevented dandruff and kept hair from falling out. This miracle product was available at 105 N. Fourth St.

Whole pages were devoted to listings of the longest rivers in the world, Terre Haute points of interest, locations of all fire alarm boxes, county and city officials, distances from Terre Haute, and the population of most important towns, secret and miscellaneous societies, union clubs, etc., the official record of popular vote for candidates for president since 1840 (up to 1888), the fictitious names of states and cities, and the total numbers of U.S. soldiers in the late war (Civil War) of all 23 states.

Deloughery & Holthaus were the proprietors of the National Road House saloon at 1011 Wabash, "the only first-class saloon east of Seventh St. on Wabash Ave."

Fred Feyh ran a saloon and boarding house at 817 Main St. His bar was "supplied with the best of wines, liquors, beer and cigars, meals by the day or week at reasonable rates."

Established in 1861, H.F. Reiners, practical dyer and renovator, was located at 655 Main St. Bruce & Graham, dealers in groceries and provisions at 300 S. Seventh, delivered free to any part of the city. M.A. Johnson was the proprietor of the South Side Pharmacy, 802 S. Seventh. Charles Seitz, 919 Wabash, offered fresh oysters.

Terre Haute was a busy place in the late 1880s.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

1994

* Clark, Dorothy (+ BUSINESS + Industry (w) A

Nail Works was south of city

Ts FEB 06 1994

In 1868, at the end of the Civil War, a company was formed in Terre Haute for the purpose of manufacturing nails of all kinds. It was time for building to replace the war-torn South and the influx of returning soldiers to this area needed to build homes and get back to the job of making a living and feeding a family.

Readers might be interested in exactly how nails were produced from pig iron. A century ago the workings of ponderous machinery "driven by the power of that might auxiliary to human labor, steam," were of greater interest to the public than they are now. And I'm not speaking of the many history buffs who are interested in all things old, antique, and like to know how it was in the old days.

The Nail Works was on the line of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad, and just in the southern suburbs of Terre Haute. It occupied more than two acres of land.

The new company had a capital stock large enough to operate with two "setts" or shifts of hands (employees), but at first there was no night work.

At one end of the building were located the "puddling" furnaces, eight in number, which were lined with fire clay and made so that the greatest intensity of heat could be obtained. The pig iron was placed in them in as small pieces as possible at about 2 a.m. each day, and it was boiled as if it were water.

When heated it was drawn off



Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

from the furnaces in iron boxes, placed on truck wheels, each box holding several hundred pounds of the molten metal. Spectators were warned that "those unaccustomed to look into the furnaces, cannot do so for more than an instant, the metal having attained such an intensely brilliant heat."

From the boxes the iron was thrown on what was called a rotary squeezer, a powerful machine driven with great rapidity. The iron was compressed and made more solid by this powerful machine, and then thrown off in balls. Workmen snatched the balls with tongs and passed them into the first "roller," through which they passed, coming out in a rough shape.

After this first rolling process, the iron was immediately transferred to a "shearer," where the rough edges were cut away, and where the bars of iron thus made were cut into pieces about 18 inches long. This powerful "shearer" could cut iron as thin as an inch and a half in thickness, and from 3 to 6 inches in

width.

These smaller bars were again placed in heating furnaces, of which there were two, and there heated to a "white heat."

Then, one by one, they were taken out and transferred on a "telegraph" to another set of rollers called the "roughing rollers," through which they passed three or four times, coming out in slabs from 15 to 18 inches in width, and from 3 to 4 feet in length, and all, of course, of a uniform thickness.

Next the slabs were placed in a finishing roller, coming out in whatever thickness necessary for the type of nails to be made. After this special cutting to size, the slabs or plates were passed to the nail machines where with one motion of those powerful presses, the nails were cut and formed perfectly in an instant.

In 1870, there were 28 of these machines in use, and the company had ordered eight more. The factory was using 13 tons of pig iron per day, but expected to expand one-third more with added machines and manpower.

The smaller nails were made from cold slips, but it was necessary to heat the iron again for the larger ones. All nails made from cold iron were passed through a "bluing furnace" consisting of a revolving cylinder encased in a brick furnace. Some 250 kegs of nails were manufactured each day, and the estimate was made that 350 kegs would be possible after expansion.

Four steam engines were required to drive all this heavy machinery, one of 450 horsepower, one of 80 horsepower, and two of about 10 horsepower each.

The kinds of nails made were "Fine blued," "Fence," "Casing," "Finishing," and "Clinch" nails, besides larger ones. The Clinch nails were placed in an iron box lined with fire-clay, covered with same, and placed in the annealing furnace. Here they were brought to a "cherry red heat," taken out and cooled. They would bend or clinch like wrought iron nails.

The company employed its own coopers and operated a large cooper shop near the iron and nail works where all the nail kegs were made. After filling, the kegs were stored in a large warehouse nearby. From there they were loaded on cars on a switch made for the use of the company. The nails were sold principally in the west and south and were of high quality.

Wesley Glover came to Terre Haute in June 1867 and was chiefly instrumental in establishing the nail works here. It began operation here in March 1868. The company was organized in Youngstown, Ohio, and he came west to plan a new mill location. We had no large industries then, and the nail works was the opening of industrial expansion. The 300 iron workers, at that time the highest paid class of labor, added much to the development of Terre Haute.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

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1994

Valley heritage

Eagle & Lion first tavern

* Clark, Dorothy (+) * History (w)

FEB 27 1994

22

When the question arose in 1870 as to who built the first tavern in Terre Haute, it was left to Lucius H. Scott to answer the querist who happened to be the editor of the local Journal newspaper.

Scott told how he arrived at Vincennes, after a journey of nearly two months, from St. Lawrence County, N.Y., on June 6, 1817, in company with John W. Osburn, the father-in-law of Judge Gookins.

Being a printer, Osborn obtained employment in Elihu Stout's printing office in Vincennes, but Scott, after spending three weeks vainly seeking something to do, determined to seek his fortune higher up in the Wabash Valley. He set out on foot for the newly laid-out town of Terre Haute.

In Vincennes he had met John Britton, who had been at Terre Haute and was making his temporary home with David Barnes, a small log cabin in Section 16, on the edge of the prairie, not far from the cemetery.

Scott made slow progress, walking and carrying his bundle, all the way from Vincennes, a journey of nearly three days. He found his new friend, Britton, and was offered hospitality. However, the cabin was too small for the family, let alone an additional boarder, and he determined to make his stay as brief



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as possible.

Scott had introductory letters from Vincennes to Major Chunn and his officers at Fort Harrison, and to Major Markle at Otter Creek, which he lost no time in delivering.

He visited the fort and found the officers in their quarters. They received him kindly and insisted he make his home at the fort until he found employment. He removed his scanty baggage to the fort and in a day or two set out in the early summer morning to cross the prairie to deliver his letters to Major Markle. He missed the track and went to Otter Creek bridge.

"On casting my eye over the broad expanse" of Otter Creek Prairie, he saw "not a tree, or a house, or a fence, or ploughed field, or other indication of home or civilization, presented themselves to view, but all was one boundless, magnificent bed of beautifully variegated flowers."

"I stood and gazed until my reason failed," he said, "and when about to retrace my steps, my eye caught the glimpse of a slight column of smoke, winding up among the trees in a distant corner of the prairie. I made my way to it, and found a family in a small log cabin, which they had as yet, occupied too short a time to have made any improvements around them."

Scott asked for directions to the Otter Creek Mills. The major was at home, and received him cordially. He was impressed with Markle's appearance, dined with, and this brief visit was the beginning of a warm friendship that continued until Markle's early death.

Now, what has all this to do with who built the first tavern in Terre Haute, you ask? Had there been a tavern in Terre Haute on Scott's arrival in June 1817, he would have stayed there, rather than accept the hospitality of Britton, and the family of David Barnes. There was neither tavern nor boarding house when he arrived late in June 1817.

"Henry Redford had just erected the building, partly of hewed logs and partly frame, on the corner of Wabash and either Front or Water Streets, the same waterfront kept by Robert Harrison, and still later by our old friend, Capt. James Wasson and Mrs. Wasson," Scott wrote.

This tavern was called the

"Eagle & Lion," and had a sign depicting the American Eagle perched upon the back of the British lion, evidently placing in jeopardy the royal animal's eye!

"This was the first tavern ever erected in Terre Haute," wrote Lucius Scott, "and it was erected by Henry Redford. The walls were up, the roof on, and the floors laid, but the rest all unfinished, even the windows not in, and there we celebrated the Fourth of July, 1817."

Attending were Maj. John J. Chunn of the Army, commander of the military post at Fort Harrison, his officers Lt. Sturges and Lt. Floyd, Surgeon Clark and McCullough, some non-commissioned officers including "Billy" Nogan with his violin, and the military band of the fort.

The fort's garrison felt responsible for the celebration and contributed "a quantum of good old wine and all else necessary refreshments." Speeches, toasts and patriotic songs were the order of the day until a late hour, when couriers were dispatched in all directions, on horseback, to bring in the ladies.

A few families had settled on the east side of the prairie and some on Honey Creek, and the crowd grew. According to the old song, they "danced all night, till broad day light, and went home with the girls in the morning."

Woolen mills prospered in 1800s

15 MAR 20 1994

More than a century ago, the Vigo Woolen Mill on east Main Street between 10th and 11th Streets, were much more extensive than most readers would imagine.

Owned by S.S. Kennedy & Co., the three-story building was 40 by 176 feet. In the front part of the building was the office, the sales room and the receiving and sorting room. In this 40-by-75-foot area, the coarse wool was carefully separated from the finer wool and put up in packages to be transferred to the manufacturing part of the establishment.

In the rear of this, and about the center of the building, was an engine of more than sufficient power to drive the extensive machinery of the mills. Attached to this engine was a powerful force pump by which the water was forced to any part of the building as it was required. It was used for fire protection also. The mill was supplied with sufficient hose to reach any part of it. This pump had a capacity of throwing three barrels of water a minute.

At the side of the main building was the washing and dyeing room, a structure 16 by 75 feet. This area was provided with tubs, kettles, etc., sufficient to do all the coloring for the establishment. The process of coloring was going all day, transforming the wool to any color that was



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By Dorothy Clark

Special to the Tribune-Star

ordered, and made ready for carding.

The finishing room was in the rear of the engine room, a space 40 by 74 feet. It was provided with all the latest machinery. A large "gig" as it was called, was used to "knap" the cloth. After passing through this machine the cloth was passed to a "shearer" where the surface was made even, then to the brushing and other finishing machines. Finally it reached the winding and measuring apparatus which wound the cloth into bolts of any desired size.

This room contained all machinery necessary to do the finishing in a mill of that size, all of which was the latest and most improved style of 1870.

Passing by the rear into the second story of the factory, one entered the weaving room. During the day, twelve looms were constantly employed in weaving. All kinds of cloth, blankets, etc.,

made there were woven at the same time. Everything moved like clock work. From 300 to 400 yards of woolen goods were turned out each day, ready to be sent to the finishing room. The weaving room was 40 by 25 feet.

The next room was the carding and spinning room where thirteen carding machines were in operation during working hours. Having been prepared in the dyeing room, the wool was transferred to the carding machines and prepared for the spindles. Some 480 spindles were required to use the material prepared for them each day. About 400 pounds of wool was carded and spun in that room during working hours.

The mill's third story was used exclusively as a storeroom and contained no machinery. More than 100,000 pounds of wool were made into cloth and other products of the mill annually. It was estimated that the amount of wool sold in this market each year would reach at least 400,000 pounds.

Some of the producers of the Vigo Woolen Mill were Cassimeres, Satinets, Cassinets and Jeans, with blankets of the finest and best quality. The greatest part of the mill's products were disposed of at home in this city — sold here, or exchanged for the raw material.

According to the 1868 Terre Haute city directory, S.S.

Kennedy, J.F. Didrich and S. Wolf owned the Vigo Woolen Mill, at the corner of 10th and Main, under the name of S.S. Kennedy & Co.

In that same year, there were 12 woolen mills in the area. Ackelmire & Thomas were located in Brazil; Birch & Brother in Greencastle; John Fisher in Spencer; Hoffa & Co. in Bowling Green; Jewett Brothers in Sullivan; Kennedy & Weiss in Charleston, Ill.; Nichols, Thomson & Co. in Rockville; Riggs, Head & Co in Perrysville; and G.F. Ellis; Eldridge S. Janney & Co.; S.S. Kennedy & Co.; and John N. Reiz, all of Terre Haute.

In March 1871, a windstorm partially demolished the Kennedy woolen mills, scattering bricks and lumber over the city.

By 1876, there were only two woolen mills in Terre Haute. G.F. Ellis was still proprietor of the Wabash Woolen Mills, established in 1854, at the northwest corner of First and Walnut Streets. Jeffers, Sheesley & Co. owned the Vigo Woolen Mills at the southwest corner of 10th and Main.

Uriah R. Jeffers acquired the woolen mill after his retirement as leading wholesale merchant of Terre Haute in 1874. He managed the mill until 1880. Later he occupied the building with a carriage manufactory conducted by his successor, A.E. Herman.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Sleuthing needed to find old buildings

Ts JAN 17 1993

Playing lost-and-found with old buildings is very much like playing Sherlock Holmes. For example, where was the old Subscription School in Terre Haute?

It took some research to find it, but not even the tenants living in the old structure knew its history. Located on the northeast corner of Seventh and Elm streets of Lot No. 9 in Rose's Subdivision, it had changed drastically from its first purpose as a school house.

James Fitzpatrick, local politician and abstractor here for many years, confirmed the above information. He stated he attended school there in 1858, and the building was not new then.

No one even noticed when the structure was razed in 1989, and the lot was cleared.

Another historic building ignored daily by downtown passersby was Washington Hall, built in 1857 on Lot No. 88 of Rose's Addition, the northeast corner of Eighth and Wabash. The first floor was occupied by a popular saloon for many years. Upper floors were used by various trade unions as a meeting place. The drycleaning business of Martinizing occupied the 134-year-old building — now gone forever.

One can't read local history without bumping into references to Dowling Hall. That building was on the west side of North Sixth Street, north from the alley north of Wabash to the Cope-

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

land Building, at the corner of Cherry Street.

Only part of the building was Dowling Hall, built by Col. Thomas Dowling in 1864 at the cost of \$60,000. Dowling moved the offices of the Wabash & Erie Canal to this building when he became superintendent.

This was the first building to be erected for the express purpose of operatic and dramatic use and to accomodate touring theatrical companies. It had the largest stage in Indiana. The entertainment area comprised the entire second floor, but the north end became the drill hall for various semi-military organizations.

The lower floor at the corner of the alley was the second home of the Hunter Laundry before it moved into the new building built by James Hunter on the northeast corner of Sixth and Cherry streets, now the site of an Indiana State University

building.

Miller Brothers & Co. had its bakery in the Dowling Hall building for a time, making crackers and bread before moving east on Wabash Avenue north of the city park at 14th Street and Wabash.

The old Dowling Hall building was demolished in 1920 to make way for the present Chanticleer Building, which explains the tile decoration of the rooster.

I mourned the passing of the old Kirkhoff building in the 1960s. The carved stone horse's head over the door denoting a harness shop was a fascinating bit of downtown architecture.

Situated at 19 S. Fifth St., and later known as Froeb's Building, it was built in 1875 by Fred A. Ross, and Kirkhoff was the first occupant. He had been at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main for only a brief time, but had been in business in the Linton Block for many years.

The building next to this one was built at the same time, but no history was found of its occupants.

Situated on the west side of North Third Street between Eagle and Chestnut streets on the lot Ermisch Cleaning Co. was to occupy later was a small frame house built before 1865. Max Joseph moved into it with his family when his son, Leo Joseph, was 6 months old. The family had first lived in the Early Row

Apartments at the north end of the same block. The Joseph home was demolished in 1908 to make way for the Ermisch building which also is gone now.

In the 1874 Vigo County Atlas is a drawing of the St. Clair House, the old hotel that later became the Indois Hotel. The ground floor rooms were occupied by Max Joseph, listed as "Merchant Tailor, Clothier, and General Furnisher."

On the west side of Fourth Street, south of Wabash, on Lot No. 69 was the fourth Terre Haute Post Office, built by Chauncey Warren in 1853 under a lease from the U.S. Post Office Department, that included only the lower floor.

The upper floors were used by the Terre Haute Journal as editorial and publishing rooms. In 1861 a mob of soldiers under the command of their officers wrecked the Journal equipment because of its political trend considered treasonous at the beginning of the Civil War.

The Post Office moved into these new quarters in December 1853, and occupied the building until the lease expired in December 1868, and it moved to South Sixth Street in the building erected by John S. Beach when Ezra Read was postmaster. That location became the parking lot for the Root Department Store, and now is the parking area for First Financial Plaza.

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Community Affairs File

Valley heritage

* Clark, Dorothy + * History (and) today

Vigo Iron fired up Aug. 13, 1870

The long-awaited day finally arrived when the furnace of the Vigo Iron Co. was at full blast and the first iron was made on Aug. 13, 1870. Putting the furnace into successful operation was long remembered by the many people who visited the works on that important day.

Capital stock of this company was \$125,000, and the officers were A.L. Crawford, president; A.J. Crawford, secretary; and D.W. Minshall, treasurer. Directors were A.L. Crawford, J.M. Crawford, A.J. Crawford, Chauncey Rose, D.W. Minshall, S.W. Phelps and Alex McGregor.

Stockholders included A.L. and A.J. Crawford, New Castle, Pa.; J.M. Crawford, Philadelphia; W.L. Scott, Erie, Pa; S.W. Phelps, Harmony; and from Terre Haute, D.W. Minshall, W.B. Tuell, Charles Cruft, Owen Tuller, Firman Nippert, Alex McGregor, James C. McGregor, Demas Deming, Chauncey Rose, Preston Hussey, H. Hulman, and Seath, Hager & Gilman.

The stack was 12 feet in diameter, or in the "bosh" as it was called, and was 52 feet high. The material for making the iron was, of course, put in at the top. It was substantially built of face brick, with large iron columns weighing one ton each. It was expected that 13 tons of iron would be cast at a single blast, and two blasts made each day, thus giving 26 tons of iron each 24 hours.

It was the company's purpose



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

to make a superior iron, not to make or cast a great deal of iron in a few days. It was necessary to use the best men, and only the most experienced hands were employed.

The cast house was of brick, 42 by 100 feet, and 24 feet high. From the furnace the molten metal was conveyed in a chute to the sand, which had been carefully prepared to receive it. Here the metal remained until cooled, after which it was taken out and was ready for shipment.

The stock-house was 60 by 140 feet, and 20 feet high. The coal, iron, limestone rock, and all the material for making iron was kept there. An immense stock was on hand at all times.

The mixture was made in the stock-house and consisted of Iron Mountain ore, Missouri hematite, Rolling Mill cinder and limestone. This mixture was conveyed to the top of the furnace by two enormous hoists in small carts and thrown into the furnace, which was heated to

9,000 degrees — a rough estimate of the heat in the hot blast. This arrangement was perfect, and the work was done in quick time.

The engine room was 34 by 34 feet, and contained an immense upright high-pressure engine. The steam cylinder was 34 inches in diameter, having a 4 foot stroke. The blasting cylinder also had a 4 foot stroke. The 400-horse-power engine was admired as a beautiful piece of machinery.

The four boilers were each 40 inches in diameter and 60 feet long. The boiler shed was only temporary and of wooden construction.

The two steam hoisters were capable of carrying immense loads of ore to the height of 80 feet. These powerful elevators were in almost constant use. From three to five men were required to attend them.

Two railroad tracks went through the stock-house and connected south with the Evansville & Crawfordsville Road, and by them the stock, coal, etc., was carried into the building.

The stock-house, boiler room, scale house, elevator, smith shop, pump house, engine house and cast house are covered with iron. The office and hot blast buildings were not.

The greater part of the casting and iron work was done by Seath, Hager & Gilman, and W. J. Ball & Co.

The Eagle Iron Works was on

First Street, between Walnut and Poplar. It was owned by W.J. Ball & Co. The principal building was 40 by 100 feet and was three stories high.

The front part of the first floor was used for a machine and finishing shop. Here a large number of men were employed in fitting up and finishing steam engines, saw and grist mill machinery, etc. This shop was supplied with turning lathes and all machinery necessary for a manufactory of that kind.

The engine was 40 horse power and was in the rear of the machine shop. Beyond the engine was the blacksmith shop where the work in wrought iron was done. Five forges kept the men constantly busy in this department.

Near the machine shop was the foundry where casting, however heavy, was made for engines, house fronts, etc. This building was 46 by 75 feet.

A large amount of miscellaneous casting was made in that foundry each year, all first-class work. A speciality was made of the manufacture of steel-bottomed scrapers for use on railroads, for excavating cellars, etc.

This firm also manufactured school furniture of iron and wood. A nearby lumber yard furnished the wood, and many skilled wood workers turned out the desks used in the schools of the 1870s, when iron work furnished a large section of laborers their jobs.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

History, progress go together

Just because a public building or residence is an old landmark is no guarantee it is beautiful — sometimes quite the contrary. It was said about one of our historic buildings that "... it was, and will be, until someone has the simple humanity to destroy it — an unparalleled example of man's ability to create ugliness and, what is worse, to live with it."

Another old landmark, later a parking lot, was described by a newcomer as "... red brick Victorian pile of superlative ugliness, too enormous, too intimidating, and too complacent in its unmitigated awfulness to suffer ridicule or perceptive architectural analysis or any other reaction but that of crushing despondency."

Many of the natives of Terre Haute wish "progress" was not quite so destructive.

The Rose Dispensary Building, northwest corner of Seventh and Cherry, was begun in 1894 and ready for occupancy in 1895. According to the records, the building was to be a five-story structure, of brick and stone, with artificial stone trimmings. Paul R. Dietz, a Chicago architect, planned the building. Heidenreich & Co. were the contractors.

The contract price of \$42,700 did not include finishing the first or fourth floors, elevators, gas-fittings, steam heating, etc. The plumbing and heating contract of \$5,000 was awarded to Watson & Sons.

The first floor facing Seventh Street was to be rented, with the free dispensary in the rear. The

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second, third and fourth floors were to be used for offices, and the fifth floor for lodge rooms.

According to the records, architect W. Homer Floyd was responsible for the old Terre Haute House, the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, Root Dry Goods Co., Erwin Block, Wheeler Building, Herz Store (later Aldens), Filbeck Hotel, Grand Opera House, the Normal School, Bement flats, and the fine residences of George Foulkes, H.J. Miller, Crawford Fairbanks and J.H. McCoy.

Architect Charles Padgett is credited with the Commercial Distillery Co. and the I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows Temple), both now passed from the scene.

Architect J. Merrill Sherman contributed the Cook & Black building (1907) at the northwest corner of Eighth and Cherry; Bement-Rea Wholesale Grocery, northwest corner Eighth and Wabash; McKeen Block; Collett Park pavilion; and the First Baptist, the Tabernacle Baptist and Maple Avenue churches.

The Vrydagh family were re-

sponsible for more landmarks than any other architects. They contributed the Marble Block, Columbian Enameling & Stamping Works, Gartland Foundry Co., Beach Block, German Reformed Church, Catholic Orphan's Home, Indiana State Normal School, Deming Block, Froeb-Cox Block, White Block, Root Glass Co. No. 1 and No. 2, St. Anthony's Hospital addition, Terre Haute High School (Wiley), Terre Haute Opera House (better known as Naylor Opera House), the residences of A.L. Pfau, Dr. Patton and Bruce Failey, and the Deming, Rea and Fairbanks schools.

The area on Seventh Street, from Wabash north to the railroad, has been undergoing drastic changes for years. The Indiana State University expansion program marched smoothly forward, and progress means many more changes in the city's downtown skyline. Landmarks have disappeared in the past, and many more will follow.

Diagonally opposite the Waters property, which had been purchased as the site for the Elk's Lodge (also gone now), was the Westfall property adjoining the Presbyterian Church on North Seventh Street. The \$16,000 paid for the 75-foot lot figured out to nearly \$214 a foot.

The large frame dwelling, the homestead of Perry Westfall, owner and editor of the old Saturday Evening Mail, was to be moved from the lot to make room for the \$50,000 building planned by the YWCA.

Moving the old Westfall house presented many difficulties. Not

the least of these was the problem of sawing the house in two. Even splitting the house left such a bulk that the street was blocked. Several fine shade trees were threatened with destruction by the house passing in the street, and many people believed the trees were worth more than the house.

Sawing the large two-story house in two was not the only problem encountered by contractor Charles Marshall who was hired to move the house. Property owners threatened to take steps to prevent the moving of the house unless the fine shade trees were protected.

The house was taken north on Seventh Street, then west, and placed on a lot at 6 1/2 Street and the Vandalia Railroad. Cable and electric lines along the route presented more problems. When asked how long the job would take, Marshall replied that it would depend on the complaints made by people along the way.

Some prankster placed signs on the old house — "Wanted a sober teamster" and "Laborers who will work." As late as Oct. 4, 1907, Marshall still could not state whether the transplanted house would be united or spliced back into one residence, or remodelled into two houses.

Architects, builders and bulldozers continue to plague Seventh Street and will for as long as the Indiana State University campus keeps growing and improving. A blend of history and progress is good and healthy to see.

Owners decide fate of buildings

Downtown Terre Haute in flux since 1816 founding

It's probably impossible to mention all the old buildings that have come and gone on the northside of Wabash Street, as it was first known, or Main Street, as it was known later and still is, or Wabash Avenue, as we know it now.

In 175 years, the buildings have come and gone. Log cabins were replaced by frame. Some were destroyed by fire, some remodeled, some moved. Some were lifted up in the air and extra stories were added. The top floors were removed from some.

Readers can see pictures of the buildings mentioned in today's column in the files of the Vigo County Public Library.

The Bement Store located on the northeast corner of First and Wabash on Lot No. 196 was built in 1851 and occupied by George W. Bement as a wholesale grocery from 1851 until 1868 when he moved farther east on Wabash near Sixth in the building later used by Silverstein Bros. Furniture Store.

The firm of Bauermeister & Busch then occupied the building until 1946 when it became the Root Store warehouse until it was demolished.

The McGregor Building was located on the north side of Wabash, west of Second, on the rear of Lot No. 173. It was built and occupied by Alexander McGregor in 1850 as the Juniata Iron Store. He

Historically speaking



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married the daughter of Matthew Stewart who built the Stewart House, a hotel and stagecoach stop on the next lot north in 1833.

The northeast corner of Second and Wabash on Lot No. 143 was occupied in 1829 when it was purchased by Jacob D. Early from his former partners and had a store built on it. After several years, Early erected a new building on the lot to be used as a hotel. Some say the old store building was incorporated in the hotel.

In 1854, he added a story and a half, and built additional rooms in the rear to be used as store rooms. This building some of us remember as the defunct Indoio Hotel.

According to early atlas pictures, the St. Clair House, as the hotel building became known in 1854, was a thriving business with 13

windows across the front, identical with the earliest photos.

The Modesitt Building, built by Welton Modesitt in 1858, was located on Lot No. 144, the second lot east of Second on the north side of Wabash Avenue.

The Farrington Block was torn down to make way for the service station on Lot No. 122 at the northwest corner of Third and Wabash. Built in 1849 by James Farrington, it replaced his residence on the same lot which had been destroyed by fire some months earlier.

The first communion service of the Roman Catholic Church in Terre Haute was in the Farrington home, and the first telegraph office in the town was located in the corner room of the later brick building.

Phoenix Row, built in 1851 on the ruins of the great fire of December 1850, and from which it received its name, was located on the north side of Wabash east of Third to the alley on Lot No. 92.

The four owners of the six properties into which the lot had been subdivided joined in the erection of the new building. Corinthian Hall owned by Ezra W. Smith was on the third floor of the west end. It was the first place of public entertainment in Terre Haute, the scene of a Grand Ball and Concert.

Union Row, located on the

northside of Wabash from Fourth to the alley west on Lot No. 71, was built in 1850. In the settlement of the Pope estate in 1849, this lot which faced east was divided into seven lots, each of which faced on Wabash, and sold to Tindel A. Madison, John Boudinot, Randolph H. Wedding, Harmon Blood, Chauncey Warren, Lucius Ryce and Dixon Porterfield.

A.Z. Foster's Carpet & Furniture House at 612 and 614 Wabash Ave. was built in 1874, destroyed by fire in 1963 and replaced by a new structure in 1965.

Rose's Block on the north side of Wabash extending east from Foster's Building was built in 1870 by Chauncey Rose. It was also called the Marble Block or Hemingway property and was occupied by the Meis Store for several years.

Downtown Terre Haute has been in a state of flux since the town's founding in 1816. The styles of architecture change, of course, as do the purposes of the various buildings. Buildings will wear out if not properly maintained, owners change, and ideas for new enterprises and uses for vacant buildings follow on each other's heels. Everybody one talks to has a different idea of what should be done with certain existing buildings. This writer notes that over the years, only the owners can make those important decisions.

Community Affairs File

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Building uses varied since 1800s

From bank to restaurant; from brewery to flour mill

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Buildings come and go in Terre Haute, and it's fascinating to learn more about the history of the older ones we still have with us.

Beginning at the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue is the 124-year-old National State Bank Building (which began its career in what was later called Memorial Hall) and is now the Saratoga Restaurant. It was erected in 1867 under joint ownership of the bank and two adjoining owners on the west.

Each of these owners had his own plan for the front of his part of the building. The bank chose terra cotta, the hardware store of Cory & Crowder chose brick, and W.H. Sage, confectioner and baker, chose stone.

Sage built his home the next year, in 1868. This structure at 1411 S. Sixth St. is owned by the Vigo County Historical Society and is used for the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley.

Continuing west on the south side of Wabash we find Mechanics Row, located on Lot. No. 41 between Fourth Street and the alley east. It was built in 1856 by a combination of several owners headed by William B. Purcell who had acquired the lot following the death of Thomas H. Blake in January 1849, and who had subdivided it into lots. This building was 135 years old, and was Smith's

Clark, Dorothy Historically speaking



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Department Store in 1968.

The Linton Block built in 1846 was located at the southeast corner of Main and Market (now Third Street and Wabash Avenue). It was occupied by Cook & Bell, wholesale druggists. When they moved their store farther east on Wabash between Sixth and Seventh, this building was occupied by C.C. Smith for his hardware store.

The Kidder Mill, located on the southwest corner of Main and Water streets, was one of the last of many flour mills in the city. During and after the Civil War, it was owned and operated by Willard Kidder. At the time he bought it, it was a brewery which had been closed by the Revenue Department. Kidder installed the milling machinery.

Later the mill was sold to W.L. Sparks of Alton, Ill., who finally gave up due to the competition of the great milling companies using the water power and the harder wheat from North and South Dakota. The mill was partly demolished, but a small part remained as a section of the Motor Truck transportation industry.

On the northwest corner of First and Ohio on Lots 225 and 226, bought by James S. Clark in 1849, was the Clark House. A three-story addition was built in 1854. It was used as a hotel under various owners until its 1889 owner turned it into a wagon yard only.

In the 1960s, M.D. Cohen & Co. owned the property. The stone arches over the ground-floor windows and door are the only visible signs of its former stately elegance as a fine hotel.

Fearn's Store, built about 1838 on Lot No. 145 on the south side of Ohio directly opposite the courthouse, was remodeled into a one-story garage for Weust Motors, after housing Jerry's Bakery and later the Bell Bakery.

Located on the southwest corner of Second and Ohio was the old Pence Hall, built in 1859 on Lot. No. 168 by Dr. Allen Pence for his drug store. The upper floor was headquarters for the Spiritualist Society. Later it was Downey &

Robbins Farm Service Hatchery before its demolition.

Judge William G. Mack's office, located on the west end of Lot No. 67 on the north side of Ohio at the alley west of Fourth Street, was a well-remembered landmark before it fell into disrepair and was torn down. It was occupied from 1859 until his retirement in 1890 as Vigo County Circuit Court Judge. He died in 1898.

The Wabash & Erie Canal office located on the south side of Ohio east of Sixth Street, where Mace Auto is now, was well-remembered by many senior citizens. It was built in 1853 by the Wabash & Erie Canal Co. for use as an office and residence of its manager. It was sold to a company headed by William B. Tuell when Thomas Dowling took over management of the canal in 1865, and moved his offices to Dowling Hotel.

For many years this canal building was home of George W. Bement and later the offices of the Terre Haute Auto Company until it was demolished in 1932 to make way for the present building.

The Zenas Smith house located on Lot. No. 53 on the southeast corner of Fourth and Poplar streets was built by Sidney Goodwin for Smith. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the Virgil Morris Labor Building.

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Hominy flakes to start the day?

White corn, pork and brooms produced here long ago

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Photographs and newspaper drawings are all that's left to remind residents of what earlier Terre Haute looked like.

Joseph Dole bought Lot. No. 123 on the west side of North Third Street at the northwest corner of the alley in 1848 from Dr. Richard Blake and built a brick building.

During the Civil War, this building was occupied as a hospital by the Sanitary Commission. When the Municipal Fire Department was first established here, the Dole Building was occupied by Engine Co. No. 4 until 1886.

The old building next door north of it collapsed in 1967, so the 119-year old structure was demolished and the land cleared.

Across Third Street from this building was the Routledge Building located on Lot 91, later known as 15 N. Third. In December 1850, a fire started in the earlier frame building on this lot which destroyed all the wooden buildings on Wabash to the alley east of Third Street. John Routledge erected his brick building on the ruins in 1851.

Farther north on Third Street were the Early Apartments, the first multiple dwelling built in Terre Haute, on the west side of Third between Eagle and Chestnut streets. Built in 1857 by Samuel Early, they were demolished in 1944.

At the northwest corner of Third

Historically speaking



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and Chestnut was the Hudnut Milling Co. For many years they produced hominy flakes, forerunner of the many present-day dry cereals. The property extended west over to the Wabash River and contained several different buildings used in the many milling processes. One building was built on the site of the old Wabash & Erie Canal drydock where for many years canal boats were built and repaired.

Another Hudnut building was located on the site of the first public burying ground (known as Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground) on the west side of Water Street south of Sycamore Street. It was later rebuilt and occupied by Paul Kuhn. This company promoted the production of white corn in this area which made better hominy

and cornmeal of higher quality.

The first brick building located on the east side of North First Street, second lot north of Mulberry, was a small house built by Benjamin I. Gilman of Cincinnati. The building was his office in 1824 when he started the pork-packing industry in Terre Haute.

Two barges left here that year loaded with pork, making the first large shipment by flatboat to New Orleans. This historic house stood for over a century, gradually fell into disrepair and was torn down.

The large brick house of Jacob Ryman stood at the southeast corner of First and Mulberry on Lot. No. 136 of the Original Town. This house was built by 1852, because in that year Ryman became financially involved and assigned his property to Jacob D. Early, who advertised the house for sale in a local newspaper. He described it as "the large two-storey brick owned and occupied by Jacob Ryman, having four rooms on each floor . . ." The house was torn down in 1923.

South on First Street were more old buildings. At the northwest corner of First and Walnut on Lot. No. 222, the second lot north of Walnut on the west side of First, was the Wabash Woolen Mill built in 1853 by George W. Ellis.

The building on the corner was used as his office and stood for many years without any drastic

remodeling. The mill suffered many changes of occupation and ownership and became the property of Sussman Iron & Metal Co.

The old Eagle Foundry was located at the southwest corner of First and Walnut on Lots 219 and 220. It was built in 1850 by Joseph Grover. He and his brother had been operating the Stratton & Wallace Foundry, and when their partnership was dissolved in 1848, Joseph bought this location and built the foundry.

Under a succession of owners using the name "Eagle Foundry," it continued until 1940 when it was abandoned by J.A. Parker & Sons. One old photo shows "Established 1849-Incorporated 1902" painted on the building's front. It was located in the same block as the Hazeldine Machine Shop.

The Hulman Broom Factory was built at the northwest corner of First and Poplar by Herman Hulman Sr. in 1881. He operated the factory until 1887 when serious competition from larger eastern factories forced its suspension.

On May 22, 1887, Hulman leased the building to Edward Hazeldine for his blacksmith's and ornamental iron workshop. As times changed, the shop also became a machine shop, growing into E.T. Hazeldine & Co., 231 S. First St., later managed by his son, Kenneth Hazeldine for many years.

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